

MAY 2011

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## From the Desk of the President

After more than 15 years on the Committee in a variety of different roles it is my pleasure this year to serve as President. I am joined on the Committee by a number of long serving Committee members who have been quietly contributing to the Society for decades. Their contribution regrettably largely goes unrecognised however it is critical to the ongoing survival of the Society. This year the Committee will also have the benefit of the fresh ideas and energy of a number of Committee members who will be serving on the Committee for the first time. Hopefully this will be reflected in a varied and interesting seminar and social program.

Our aim this year is to grow the Society's membership particularly in those sectors in which our membership has declined in recent years such as among employers and union representatives. The Committee would welcome suggestions for how we might better serve these sectors and in fact the membership as a whole. In particular we encourage you to approach Committee members with suggestions for speakers and seminar topics.

This year is a particularly busy year for the Committee as we prepare for the National Conference which IRS of WA will host in Fremantle on 6 - 8 October 2011. A number of leading national and international speakers have agreed to speak and this will ensure that the event is the premier industrial relations event in Western Australia this year. The event will be advertised both locally and nationally and is expected to attract delegates from around Australia.

The Conference provides a unique and targeted environment to profile organisations involved in the industrial relations and human resource sectors. If your organisation is interested in the profiling opportunities associated with the Conference please contact Tammie Kerr at [tammie.kerr@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:tammie.kerr@commerce.wa.gov.au) who can provide you with additional details of the sponsorship packages available.

**Melanie Binet**  
Industrial Relations Society  
of Western Australia



# Australian Labour and Employment Relations National Conference

The Australian Industrial Relations Society's Bi-annual Conference is being hosted by the IR Society of Western Australia and is being held in Fremantle. The Conference is scheduled to run from 6-8 October 2011. The Conference will commence with a casual networking function on the evening of 6 October 2011.

This year's National Convention is shaping up to be a fantastic blend of skills training, case studies, stakeholder discussions and networking opportunities. To date we have confirmed the following speakers:

- The Honourable Geoffrey Giudice AO, President Fair Work Australia
- Mr Nicholas Wilson, Fair Work Ombudsman
- His Honour Toni Lucev, Federal Magistrate
- Chief Commissioner Tony Beech, WAIRC
- Professor Ray Fells, University of Western Australia
- Associate Professor John Howe, University of Melbourne
- Mr Kevin Reynolds, CFMEU
- Mr Courtney Chamberlain, Minera IRL Limited
- Mr Chris Meallin, General Motors

There are a number of other speakers who have expressed an interest in presenting, but are yet to confirm their availability.

The Sub Committee is working tirelessly to confirm key details and release a draft program as soon as possible. We are creating a number of dedicated online resources so that members of the Society across Australia will have access to the latest information on the conference. Updates will be available on our website ([www.industrialrelations.com.au](http://www.industrialrelations.com.au)), our [Facebook](#) page, on [LinkedIn](#) and on [Twitter](#).

## National Convention – interested in sponsorship?

Expressions of interest in sponsorship are now being called for.

The Convention will be held on 6 – 8 October in Fremantle, and convention material will be distributed to the National Society's 1000 + members. It is anticipated that more than 150 delegates will attend, including members of the IRS of WA, guests and presenters, government, academics and representatives of private sector employer and employee organisations from across our Nation.

Sponsorship of the Convention will provide an opportunity to showcase your organisation to key stakeholders in the labour relations and employee management sphere. Three levels of sponsorship are available – Gold, Silver and Bronze – offering high profile speaker opportunities, naming rights to functions, advertising leading up to and at the convention, and the inclusion of promotional material in the delegates satchels.

For more information please contact Tammie Kerr, Vice President, IRS of WA on 0421 761 271 or [Tammie.Kerr@commerce.wa.gov.au](mailto:Tammie.Kerr@commerce.wa.gov.au)

Did you know that the IRSWA is on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter?

Join the Society today and learn about upcoming events and changes.

facebook

LinkedIn

follow us on  
twitter

## Seminars

Have you got an idea for a seminar?

Or are you interested in co-hosting a seminar with the Society?

Contact the Committee by emailing us at [info@industrialrelations.com.au](mailto:info@industrialrelations.com.au)



## Upcoming events in 2011

May 2011	IRSWA Seminar – Domestic Violence
June 2011	IRSWA Patron's Dinner – Guest Speaker - Peter Johnston, Managing Director and CEO, Minara Resources Limited.
July 2011	IRSWA Seminar – <i>Are we really all just trying to get along? TMS, JJ Richards and the meaning of "genuinely trying to reach agreement"</i> – Hosted by Norton Rose.
August 2011	IRSWA Seminar – Employer's response to the Fair Work Act.
September 2011	IRSWA Seminar
October 2011	National Conference
November 2011	IRSWA Seminar
December 2011	IRSWA Christmas Function

Keep an eye on our [website](#) and your inbox for more information. We hope that you will keep informed and in contact with other members and colleagues on the following IRSWA social media sites:

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Industrial-Relations-Society-of-Western-Australia/94357859982>

**LinkedIn:** [http://www.linkedin.com/groups/2011-Australian-Industrial-Relations-Society-3848523?mostPopular=&gid=3848523&goback=%2Enepe\\_\\*1\\_\\*1\\_\\*1\\_\\*1](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/2011-Australian-Industrial-Relations-Society-3848523?mostPopular=&gid=3848523&goback=%2Enepe_*1_*1_*1_*1)

**Twitter:** [http://twitter.com/IRS\\_WA](http://twitter.com/IRS_WA)



## The Wrap Up – the IRS in 2010

2010 was a busy year for industrial relations practitioners. It was an equally busy year at the IRS with the hosting of a number of events.

We kicked off the year with a presentation by Professor Al Rainnie from the Curtin Graduate School of Business titled “Back to the Future - Coming back to Western Australian Industrial Relations.”

A number of **seminars** were held during the year across a range of topics including:

- An update on Fair Work Australia Unfair Dismissals by Commissioner Williams of FWA (co-hosted with ALLA).
- A seminar titled “Talkin' bout (MySpace) Generation: Social Media Sites” by Blake Dawson.
- Workplace Fatigue Management presented by a panel of experts in the field: Nina Lyhne, WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner; Isobel Boylan, Director, BSS Corporate Psychology Services and Dave Lampard Safety Officer – WA Police Union.

The **IRSWA Annual Patron’s Dinner** was held at Frasers restaurant in Kings Park on 30 June 2010. The IRSWA and its inaugural patron, Jack Gregor, were pleased to host Federal Magistrate Toni Lucev as guest speaker. Amongst the three-course meal, nibbles and drinks, Magistrate Lucev delivered a thought provoking speech entitled: *The long march to fair work: A triumph of federalism or just a federal triumph?* Magistrate Lucev provided a unique insight into the interaction of the corporation’s power under the Constitution, the resulting High Court’s determination on the power’s application through WorkChoices and how this influenced the creation of the final Fair Work legislation. The Patron’s Dinner has become a not-to-be-missed event in any IR practitioner’s calendar.

**The Annual Convention** themed, “WA is an Island” was held in September 2010 and was a very successful event. It was great to return to Rottneest, which was a perfect pick given the topic of the conference. Speakers included:

- The Hon. Bill Marmion MP, State Minister for Commerce.
- Ged Kearney, President, ACTU
- Professor Andrew Stewart, John Bray Professor of Law, University of Adelaide
- Commissioner Cloghan, Fair Work Australia
- Toni Walkington, Secretary, CPSU
- Tony Cooke, Managing Director, Metanoia Consulting Pty Ltd
- Gerard Phillips, Partner, Middletons
- Professor Marian Baird, Professor of Work and Organisations, University of Sydney
- Kim Richardson, Construction Director, Master Builders Association of WA
- Associate Professor Verena Marshall, Curtin University

Winding up the year we met for a networking event, the **Christmas Cocktail Function** at Etro in December 2010.

Your profile  
here...

Interested in have  
your profile  
included in the  
newsletter?

Contact us at  
[info@industrialrel  
ations.com.au](mailto:info@industrialrelations.com.au)

IRSWA is  
not only for  
members!

Non members are  
welcome to  
register to attend  
events for a  
nominal fee.

## IRSWA Newsletter

The IR Society newsletter is an important resource for the Committee to communicate with members. It gives us a chance to provide details on upcoming events, seminars and networking opportunities. It also allows us to reflect on previous events and gives those of you who might have missed an event a bit of a catch up.

However, the newsletter is an untapped resource for members to communicate with each other. For members, the newsletter can provide the perfect opportunity for a member to profile their business or to cross promote an event. As such, we welcome any suggestions, articles or submissions which you might like to include in upcoming newsletters. For more information in relation to this, please send us an email to [info@industrialrelations.com.au](mailto:info@industrialrelations.com.au) Attn: The Editor.

## Contact the Society

The Committee welcomes new ideas, suggestions and feedback on how to make the Society more relevant to you.

Don't hesitate to contact the Society at –

Industrial Relations Society of WA  
PO Box 6276  
EAST PERTH WA 6893

<http://www.industrialrelations.com.au/>

Phone: 0417 926 911

Email: [info@industrialrelations.com.au](mailto:info@industrialrelations.com.au)

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# FREMANTLE

## AUSTRALIAN LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 6 – 8 OCTOBER

The Industrial Relations Society of Western Australia is proud to host the biennial ALERA Conference in Fremantle in 2011.

The conference location, Fremantle is one of Western Australia's most historic and beautiful cities. Fremantle is recognised as the best-preserved 19th century seaport in the world. Established in 1829 as a port for the Swan River Colony, Fremantle was the major city in Western Australia for much of its early history. In 1987, Fremantle hosted the Americas Cup sailing challenge and the world saw a city rich in heritage and character.

This year's conference will be held at Notre Dame University. The university buildings are integrated throughout the streets of the historical "West End". Each building has its own unique architecture and makes for a refreshing conference venue for the ALERA National Conference.

### The Social Program

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#### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

Welcome to Fremantle

Little Creatures The Loft

6.00pm – 8.00pm

A relaxed evening overlooking Fishing Boat Harbour to catch up with friends and make some news ones.

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#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Harbourside Networking

Maritime Museum

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Wander through the exhibits and make your way to the Australia II Gallery. Delicious canapés and refreshments will be served.

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#### Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October

Gala Dinner

Fremantle Prison

7.00pm – 12.00pm

A stunning backdrop for a formal affair at the world heritage listed, most intact convict prison built in Australia.

Australian Labour and Employment Relations Association  
National Conference  
6-8 October 2011  
Notre Dame University, Fremantle  
Western Australia

## Conference Speakers

*Current confirmed speakers*

The Honourable Geoffrey Giudice AO  
*President, Fair Work Australia*

Mr Nick Wilson  
*Fair Work Ombudsman*

His Honour Toni Lucev  
*Federal Magistrate, Federal Magistrates Court of Australia*

Mr Courtney Chamberlain  
*Executive Chairman, Minera IRL Limited*

Mr Kevin Reynolds  
*Secretary CFMEU*

Professor Ray Fells  
*University of Western Australia*

Associate Professor John Howe  
*Director, Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law*

Mr Anthony R Beech  
*Chief Commissioner, Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission*

Mr Chris Meallin  
*Senior HR Manager - Policy, GM Holden Ltd*

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For further information refer to our website  
[industrialrelations.com.au](http://industrialrelations.com.au) we are also on facebook and twitter.



# FREMANTLE

