

# The Phoenix Has Risen

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Phoenix was a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the SUT Perth, formed in September 2016 as a collective of subsea underwater professionals; each possessing extensive subsea experience in engineering, science or academia. The group provided a focal point where members applied their experience, knowledge, skills, leadership and wisdom to current and future subsea challenges.

Strategy Sessions were held early in 2018, to engage with Phoenix Members and understand their motivations to be involved in Phoenix and what they wished to achieve. This allowed the Phoenix SIG to provide more focus for our efforts by determining our Objectives (What) and Goals (How) for 2018 and beyond. This process was completed again in 2019, to refresh the Objectives and Goals and ensure team alignment on our collective efforts. Thanks to Rodney Silberstein, Phoenix Under-Secretary, for your support including providing the meeting rooms at FLUX for Phoenix meetings in the early years.



**Figure 1: Phoenix SIG Strategy Session in 2018**

One of Phoenix's Objectives was to provide support for under-employed, unemployed and recently retired members of the underwater community.

As a Goal supporting this Objective, led by Phoenix Vice-Chair Peter Clarke, Phoenix partnered with recruiters (e.g. Spencer Ogden, Inverse Energy) at monthly meetings to share recruiting/job search best practices and advice, including engaging with recruiters, resumes, digital branding and networking. This was very successful in supporting Phoenix members as most returned to full-time work. A special thank-you to Katie Rowe, Specialist Recruiter at Spencer Ogden, for her partnership and support including making the boardroom at Spencer Ogden available for Phoenix meetings.

As another Goal, Phoenix Member Abdul Mueed gave a well received presentation on "Stored Electrical Power and Potential to Change Subsea System Power Distribution" at the April 2018 SUT Evening Technical Meeting: Researching into the Subsea Future.

Phoenix Member Dr. Paul Choate gave a presentation "Status and Opportunities for Space in WA" at the July 2018 Phoenix meeting. This was timely given the formation of the new Australian Space Agency as of 1 July 2018, and relevant given the SUT Perth Branch strategy of Diversification. Discussion topics included diversification of subsea engineering skills and technology transfer to and from the subsea industry.

Phoenix Chair Allan Devlin was invited to attend the WA DEFENSE REVIEW Strategy, Defence & Industry Dialogue in September 2018, co-hosted by The City of Perth and chaired by Professor Stephen Smith, Former Australian Foreign Affairs and Defence Minister. Attendees included representatives of the Royal Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Australian Navy, Regional Development Australia, Commonwealth, State and Local Governments along with Australian Industry and trade organisations. Opportunities for technical collaboration between the Defence and Resources Sectors were identified and discussed.

Allan Devlin Chaired the June 2019 Evening Technical Meeting - The Future of Subsea Autonomy, including presentations from the Royal Australian Navy and Marine Advanced Robotics, which further supported the SUT Perth Branch strategy of Diversification. Phoenix Member Tim Hart assisted with registrations at the door and the microphones for Questions & Answers following presentations.



Figure 2: June 2019 Evening Technical Meeting - The Future of Subsea Autonomy



Figure 3: June 2019 Evening Technical Meeting - The Future of Subsea Autonomy



As a second Objective, Phoenix has helped Members to identify opportunities. For example, Phoenix partnered with the Subsea Energy Australia (SEA) Subsea Innovation Cluster (SICA) and National Energy Resources Australia (NERA) to identify collaboration opportunities for Phoenix Members.

Phoenix had strong attendance at SUT ETMs, Casual Catch-ups at the Cheeky Sparrow, Phoenix BBQs and after meeting drinks, and SEA SICA events, to enable the third Objective of providing networking and communications opportunities to keep Phoenix Members engaged in the underwater community.

For example, Phoenix held its one year anniversary BBQ in December 2017 at the Scented Gardens on the South Perth Foreshore. This event was well organised by Phoenix Secretary Carl Celedin. A great time was had by all, enjoying BBQ food and conversations as the sun set over the Swan River with a view of the Perth CBD.



**Figure 4: Phoenix one year anniversary BBQ in December 2017, South Perth Foreshore**



**Figure 5: Phoenix one year anniversary BBQ in December 2017, South Perth Foreshore**

By the middle of 2019, the Subsea Industry in Perth was well into recovering from the downturn. The Phoenix SIG had served its purpose in keeping Phoenix Members engaged and involved in the underwater community through SUT, with most Phoenix Members having returned to full-time work. The Phoenix Had Risen!

To allow for more efficient allocation of resources, the SUT Committee agreed to suspended the Phoenix SIG by keeping the Constitution in place but leaving the committee positions vacant. Should there be a demand for Phoenix in the future then the committee could be re-formed at that time. The now former Phoenix Chair was elected to the SUT Committee for 2020 to help with re-allocating Phoenix resources to SUT Sub-Committees (e.g. Engagement, Courses, Mentoring Programme, National Engineering Register and Industry Diversification). The Phoenix Goal of Transition To Retirement (TTR) was moved to the Engagement Sub-Committee to ensure continuity, as a key demographic of recently retired and transition to retirement Professionals that can continue to contribute to the SUT.

Thanks to Phoenix Members and everyone who participated and contributed to SUT's Phoenix. A special thank-you to our SUT Committee Members for Phoenix: Dr. Julie Morgan, Ian Wilson and Terry Griffiths for your support, guidance and informal mentoring over the years. Thank-you also to the rest of the SUT Committee and Branch Manager Jennifer Maninin for your amazing support and encouragement. We had some good times together over the years, and Phoenix Members will now transition into new ways of being involved with the SUT.