

6 November 2015

Women Building Confidence in Industry

Building confidence within a workplace environment was the hot topic of conversation at this week's Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) Women's Networking Forum.

Women from a diverse range of professions within the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA), were invited to join the event, which aims to build a supportive network for the women working within traditionally male dominated environments.

The forum was held in partnership with the National Association of Women in Operations (NAWO).

The women who attended the forum were fortunate enough to hear from two highly successful women, Megan McCracken and Anna Dartnell, who are both well recognised within NAWO.

KIC director Chris Oughton said the Women's Networking Forum continues to attract a diverse range of employees from within and surrounding the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA).

"The forums aim to provide a networking platform for the women working within the KIA and it is great to see so many women from industry attending the forums," Mr Oughton said.

"In 2013, senior mechanical engineer for the calcination and shipping port at Alcoa's Kwinana Refinery Paula West, was featured in an Australian Mining article- 10 influential women in mining alongside head of Hancock Prospecting Gina Rinehart."

"Paula said working in a heavily male dominated environment where women make up only 9 per cent of the workforce in Kwinana, she believes leadership, diversity and equal opportunity for women will not happen on its own and that an active forum is necessary to bring about positive change."

The purpose of the professional development event is to both build a shared understanding about NAWO and to continue building a community of support and exchange between NAWO and KIC.

The session was focused on building confidence, considering the role confidence plays in our workplace and the important concept of personal impact.

Guest Speakers Megan and Anna had the full attention of every attendee, as they captivated the audience with their own confidence and discussions regarding related topics.

Megan is an experienced executive with a 25 year career spanning employee relations, human resources and more recently, safety and corporate affairs.

Whilst her fellow guest speak Anna is the WA Chair of NAWO and has built her career in a range of male dominated industries.

During the forum, Anna provided the women with her own tips towards gaining self confidence in the work place.

"If you don't have the skill of confidence, your personal abilities won't be able to shine through," she said.

"The best thing about confidence, is it's a skill so you can always work on building that with a positive attitude."

The forum was held on Thursday, 5 November at the Cruising Yacht Club and are held quarterly.

For more information about the KIC Women's Networking Forum, contact Debbie Hoey at Kwinana Industries Council – 9419 1855 or Debbie.hoey@kic.org.au



Photo Caption- Women's Networking Forum host Rachel Lewis with Guest Speaker from NAWO Anna Dartnell

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