

Big guns at Canstruct

BRISBANE richlister **Robin Murphy's** Canstruct Group has appointed some big guns to its board capping a year that saw the profit of its parent company soar more than 20 per cent.

Canstruct has hired former chief of army **Ken Gillespie** and retired rear admiral **Peter Marshall** to help guide the engineering and construction company into the next phase of its history. Canstruct Group was founded in the 1960s by Murphy to deliver remote and complex engineering and construction projects across Papua New Guinea, the South Pacific and regional Australia.

According to documents filed with ASIC, Canstruct's parent company Rard No 3 recorded revenue of \$324m last financial year with net profit of \$127m. Not bad for an outfit that started in 1966 with Murphy (illustrated) constructing two bridges in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Murphy last year was placed 243rd on The Australian's list of richest people with an estimated wealth of \$523m.

Over the years, Canstruct has worked on a variety of jobs including an underwater pipeline in New Caledonia, the refurbishment of the Story Bridge and roadworks on the Kokoda Highway in PNG. Controversially for several years it operated Australia's offshore refugee processing centre on Nauru. However last year, the federal government stripped Canstruct of the contract and selected one of the US's largest private prisons operators to run the centre.

Utah-based Management



CITY BEAT GLEN NORRIS

and Training Corporation, which runs 21 corrections and immigration detention centres in the US, was named as preferred tenderer to take over garrison and welfare services at the Nauru facility. Canstruct took over the contract from Broadspectrum in 2017, winning contracts worth nearly \$2bn. Towards the end of its contract, taxpayers were paying about \$4m a year for every detainee in its care.

CONVENTION HIRE

BRISBANE convention operator ASM Global APAC has appointed **Beverly Parker** as the group's new director of marketing. Parker has more than 30

years' experience in tourism, events and hospitality. Parker will combine her new role with her current position as director of business development at ICC Sydney where she has successfully applied her experience in the international business events sector.

Group chairman **Harvey Lister** says Parker's outstanding track record will be invaluable in her new role. "Parker brings a depth of industry knowledge and ability as well as strong leadership credentials to her expanded role and we look forward to welcoming her to the team," says Lister.

ROCK ON

THE headquarters of leading fund manager Sentinel Property Group is fast becoming Brisbane's answer to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, with the office now featuring a salute to the **Don McLean** epic 'American Pie' along with a rare collection of records and memorabilia by The Beatles. The American Pie tribute has been framed and displayed in the office of Sentinel chief executive **Warren Ebert** after being put together by chief experience officer and budding rock historian **Michael 'The Professor' Sherlock**.

"The Professor has created a magnificent montage to celebrate American Pie using records and album covers referenced in the lyrics," Ebert says.

American Pie, McLean's masterpiece inspired by the 1959 plane crash death of legendary early rock star **Buddy Holly** – was a worldwide number one in 1972, including in Australia.

