



Well done, fellas: Lindsay Fox (far left) and Jac Nasser (left) were honoured last night by (above) Malcolm Binks, Jeanne Pratt, Anthony Pratt and Clandine Revere; and (below) Jeff and Felicity Kennett.

Pictures: NORM OORLOFF

Stars and stripes for business duo

BUSINESSMEN Lindsay Fox and Jac Nasser have been honoured for strengthening Australian ties with the US.

The trucking magnate and BHP Billiton chairman — both proud Melburnians — were the star guests at a Crown casino dinner last night hosted by the American Australian Association.

The function was a chance for luminaries to praise the global heavyweights for their

Angus Thompson

efforts on the international stage.

Former prime minister Paul Keating led the chorus, paying particular tribute to Mr Nasser as a “loyal Australian” who had helped build the nation’s automotive industry.

“He became the CEO of an American business but was always an Australian at heart,” Mr Keating said.

He also quipped that Mr Fox had “a ton of

money” and didn’t have to be nice to anybody — but he was.

“This is a person who does believe in friendship and effort,” Mr Keating said.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott hailed Mr Fox as one of the nation’s greatest exports.

“Lindsay Fox is the ultimate Aussie bloke and Australia’s greatest trucker,” he said.

Mr Nasser, the former boss of Ford Motor Co in

the US, also used the event to urge support for Australia’s troubled automotive industry.

He said Ford, along with Toyota and General Motors, had invested billions of dollars in Australia and did not want to leave.

“We asked these companies to come here and I think it would be shortsighted not to support them during what is a very traumatic period in the world,” he said.