

8 March 2017

Brisbane woman recognised for climbing heights of resources sector

A successful Everest climber, former Telstra Business Woman of the Year finalist, and 30-year resources sector veteran has been recognised by the sector for her outstanding achievements.

Karen Alexander was presented the Exceptional Woman in Queensland Resources Award in Brisbane today by Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations Grace Grace, Queensland Resources Council (QRC) President Rag Udd and Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) Chair Maria Joyce before a state-wide audience of almost 900 people.

They were attending, or viewing live via webcast, the annual QRC/WIMARQ International Women's Day Breakfast and Resources Awards for Women presentation, hosted by BHP Billiton.

Karen, Manager of Strategic Alliances – Mining with Hastings Deering was one of just two females among 800 male engineering students while studying for her mechanical engineering degree, and one of the first two females to ever complete this degree at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

And now, she is Hastings Deering's first senior executive sales business leader.

Among her other firsts are being the first female fuels and lubricants product application engineer to be permitted access to underground mine services at Mount Isa Mines, and the first female fuels and lubricants product application engineer at Shell before leading Shell's global technical business.

Originally from New Zealand, Karen and her 83-year-old my father, who just missed out on climbing with Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953, reached the summit of Mount Everest in 2014 to complete his 'unfinished business.'

Karen was recognised for her 30-year involvement with QUT in 2006 when she received the Dean's award for Outstanding Alumni Contribution.

Since 1999, Karen has been a member of the Faculty Academic Board for Science and Engineering and an Engineering Course Advisory Group member since 2013.

'Since my graduation I have actively promoted women in engineering and non-traditional occupations,' said Karen.

'I have done this through school visits, presentations, career workshops, television, newspaper, QUT advertising and QUT women in engineering and resources programs,' she said.

'My biggest reward is seeing women move freely and naturally into resources careers as if the pathway was natural and expected – not something unusual or to be noted.

'I am working to implement some further mentoring programs with Hastings Deering that I envisioned after attending the Caterpillar Women's Leadership Forum.

Karen has also been involved with the Sunshine Coast University, being an External Advisory Board Member for its ENACTUS program since 2001, a not-for-profit global student program encouraging students to take classroom theory into the real world and develop projects to benefit communities.

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane congratulated Karen and all the winners in this year's awards.

'These awards celebrate and showcase the depth of female talent in Queensland's resources sector, and provides industry with ambassadors and mentors, particularly for their female colleagues and women and students thinking about entering the resources sector,' he said.

'Diverse workforces, just like safe workforces, are more productive, innovative and profitable.

'Particularly in hard times, our sector needs to ramp up productivity and innovation, and it's well documented that these go hand-in-hand with employing people from different backgrounds, cultures and genders.

'The attendance at eight separate functions around the state to witness the presentation of these awards is a clear demonstration of our sector's continued commitment to its goal of at least 20 per cent women in non-traditional roles by 2020.'

The awards have been presented by QRC and WIMARQ since 2006

(ends)

To view video of Karen, click here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146529003@N02/31408841151/in/album-72157678973405775/>

Photographs available on request.

Further information and media contact:

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Hastings Deering: Vincent Cosgrove: +61 7 3875 0969 | Mobile:+61 400 916 725

EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN IN QUEENSLAND RESOURCES		Location
Winner:	Karen Alexander	Banksia Beach
Runner-Up	Lucy Martin	Fortitude Valley

Finalist	Trista Brohier	Brisbane
Finalist:	Michelle Elvy	Mackay
Finalist:	Suzannah D'Juliette	Archerfield
Finalist:	Lydia Gentle	Coomera
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GENDER DIVERSITY CHAMPION IN QUEENSLAND RESOURCES		
Winner:	Vince Lavery	Weipa
Finalist:	Kirsty Ocallaghan	North Lakes
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Winner	Abi Meehan	Chanel College

Finalist	Josie Henry	Kirwan SHS
Finalist	Felicity Finlayson	North Rockhampton SHS

8 March 2017

Weipa man unearths talents of women for resources sector

Rio Tinto's Vincent Lavery has seen first-hand the improvements to safety, culture and productivity that having more women in the company's workforce can bring.

Service Delivery Manager, Procurement for Rio Tinto Weipa and Gove, Vince has been at the forefront of change to bring more women onto the mine site.

For his efforts, he was awarded Gender Diversity Champion in the prestigious Queensland Resources Awards for Women in Brisbane today.

The award was presented by Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations Grace Grace, Queensland Resources Council (QRC) President Rag Udd and Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) Chair Maria Joyce before a state-wide audience of almost 900 people.

They were attending, or viewing live via webcast, the annual QRC/WIMARQ International Women's Day Breakfast and Resources Awards for Women presentation, hosted by BHP Billiton.

'Traditionally, a warehouse with forklifts, trucks and manual handling was considered a work environment for a man,' said Vince.

However, he has changed the workplace culture in his team by overseeing employment of women into these non-traditional roles, and offering part-time and job-share roles.

'As a result, the team is safe, effective, productive and innovative,' Vince added.

'The positive culture has a gravitational pull that means other people now want to join the team and the people in the team want to work hard to ensure the success of the team. '

Vince's work has had a huge impact, with 60 per cent of leadership roles now occupied by women with the team made up of 57 per cent women, including 20 per cent indigenous people.

Vince's vision is for all leaders in the resource sector to challenge their unconscious bias relating to mothers returning to the workforce.

'Many jobs can be made flexible with childcare arrangements and start/finish times,' said Vince.

'Challenging people to adapt a role to suit the person with the right attitude is a way to add value to the business, as well as add value to that person's life through new skills. '

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane congratulated all the winners in this year's awards.

'These awards celebrate and showcase the depth of female talent in Queensland's resources sector, and provides industry with ambassadors and mentors, particularly for their female colleagues and women and students thinking about entering the resources sector,' he said.

'Diverse workforces, just like safe workforces, are more productive, innovative and profitable.

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146529003@N02/31847175510/in/album-72157678973405775/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146529003@N02/32074142182/in/album-72157678973405775/>

Photographs available on request.

Further information and media contact:

QRC: Caroline Morrissey 0417 770 893
carolinem@qrc.org.au

Rio Tinto: Lucy Warren: 0427 629 017

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Finalist	Trista Brohier	Brisbane
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Chef cooks up new career as diesel fitter

A chef who hung up her apron to be a diesel fitter has been named Outstanding Queensland Tradeswoman, Operator or Technician in this year's International Women's Day Resources Awards for Women.

Fourth year BMA apprentice diesel fitter Carolyn Dobson was presented the award today in Brisbane by Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations Grace Grace, Queensland Resources Council (QRC) President Rag Udd and Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) Chair Maria Joyce before an audience of almost 900 people state-wide.

They were attending, or viewing live via webcast, the annual QRC/WIMARQ International Women's Day Breakfast and Resources Awards for Women presentation, hosted by BHP Billiton.

Carolyn had a dream, and it was to travel Australia as a chef. However the dream soon morphed into a love of all things mechanical when she started an auto-mechanics course to equip herself to fix her vehicle if she broke down in the outback.

After finishing some work experience with a local mechanic, Toys, in her home suburb of Redcliffe, Carolyn went back to the kitchen to finish her chef's apprenticeship, but not for long.

'The more time I spent in the kitchen, the more I realised that it wasn't for me, and I would much rather still be at Toys,' said Carolyn.

'That's when a family friend who worked for BMA told me about the apprenticeships that were offered every year.

'He was a diesel fitter at one of BMA's mines and he would always tell me stories about the massive machinery that he works on every day.

'He encouraged me to apply for a diesel fitting apprenticeship with BMA and so here I am, working on the same machinery as him, the ones I thought I'd only ever hear about.

Carolyn, who now calls Moranbah home, encourages other young women to take up trade careers, helping at 'try-a-trade' workshops focussed on high school girls.

She is the only female step-up supervisor in her area and is paving the way for other women.

'Being a step-up supervisor has allowed me to expand my influence more,' said Carolyn.

'I think this first step will open the doors for other females in our department to be given the same opportunity and not only become step-up supervisors, but become great leaders.'

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane congratulated all the winners in this year's awards.

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The awards have been presented by QRC and WIMARQ since 2006.

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To view video of Carolyn, click

here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/146529003@N02/32184227906/in/album-72157678973405775/>

Photographs available on request.

Further information and media contact:

QRC: Caroline Morrissey 0417 770 893
carolinem@qrc.org.au

BMA: Sheridan.Galloway@bhpbilliton.com

The full list of results follows.

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Moranbah engineer leads the way for women in resources

A young Moranbah engineer has been recognised for her swift rise up the career ladder, and for encouraging more women to follow in her footsteps.

Nikhat (Nikki) Nagin, who is a principal engineer for BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, received the prestigious Exceptional Young Woman in Queensland Resources Award today.

The award was presented in Brisbane by Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations Grace Grace, Queensland Resources Council (QRC) President Rag Udd and Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) Chair Maria Joyce before a state-wide audience of almost 900 people.

They were attending, or viewing live via webcast, the annual QRC/WIMARQ International Women's Day Breakfast and Resources Awards for Women presentation, hosted by BHP Billiton.

Nikki, who came to Australia from Fiji when she was 16, was determined to become an engineer, despite her grandmother telling her it was a job for men, and later being told by a boss that she'd have to work twice as hard as the men to be successful.

'That particular manager became a bit of an informal mentor and provided me with a lot of support,' said Nikki,

'My parents have been very supportive including my dad visiting me at Olympic Dam on site and being allowed to go underground.

'Being a lawyer, this was very exciting for him, and now he doesn't think I carry a pickaxe to work.'

Nikki is currently studying for Master in Project Management majoring in Global Project Design at the University of Sydney.

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane congratulated all the winners in this year's awards.

'These awards celebrate and showcase the depth of female talent in Queensland's resources sector, and provides industry with ambassadors and mentors, particularly for their female colleagues and women and students thinking about entering the resources sector,' he said.

'Diverse workforces, just like safe workforces, are more productive, innovative and profitable.

'Particularly in hard times, our sector needs to ramp up productivity and innovation, and it's well documented that these go hand-in-hand with employing people from different backgrounds, cultures and genders.

'The attendance at eight separate functions around the state to witness the presentation of these awards is a clear demonstration of our sector's continued commitment to its goal of at least 20 per cent women in non-traditional roles by 2020.'

The awards have been presented by QRC and WIMARQ since 2006.

(ends)

To view video of Nikki, click here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146529003@N02/31531982234/in/album-72157678973405775/>

Photographs available on request.

Further information and media contact:

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T +61 7 3329 2431
M +61 420 593 786

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BHP Billiton equality goal wins accolade

BHP Billiton's aspirational goal of achieving gender balance in its workforce by 2025 has been recognised in the prestigious Resources Awards for Women.

The company won the Excellence in Diversity Programs and Performance category for its diversity strategies implemented when establishing an Integrated Remote Operating Centre (IROC) for its coal operations in Brisbane.

The award was presented by Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations Grace Grace, Queensland Resources Council (QRC) President Rag Udd and Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) Chair Maria Joyce before a state-wide audience of almost 900 people.

They were attending, or viewing live via webcast, the annual QRC/WIMARQ International Women's Day Breakfast and Resources Awards for Women presentation.

"With strong leadership and business support, we made the commitment to establish a diverse and gender balanced Coal IROC and used the opportunity to change the narrative of who 'miners' are and create opportunities for diverse and new to industry talent," said Ms Michelle Elvy, Manager of Control Execution at BHP Billiton's Coal IROC.

"With over 216 roles to fill, to achieve success we needed to rethink the way we recruited and sourced talent," she said.

"The evidence of the program's effectiveness can be seen in black and white in our numbers, BHP Billiton Coal's IROC began operating on 9 November and out of the 216 roles recruited for, we have achieved a 56 per cent female and 3 percent representation by indigenous people.

"Prior to establishing the IROC, the role of controller in our business had low female representation.

"IROC recruitment has allowed us to reconsider what it takes to be successful in roles, which were previously dominated by those with 'site' and 'operational' experience.

"The redefinition of the work has allowed us to source highly-skilled male and female controllers from different industries but with similar backgrounds.

"As a result we have been able to offer an entry to the resources sector to those who might never have considered it.

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane congratulated all the winners in this year's awards.

“These awards celebrate and showcase the depth of female talent in Queensland’s resources sector, and provides industry with ambassadors and mentors, particularly for their female colleagues and women and students thinking about entering the resources sector,” he said.

“Diverse workforces, just like safe workforces, are more productive, innovative and profitable.

“I am encouraged by the efforts of many of our members, particularly those who have set very high targets for gender diversity in their workforces.

“It’s no small task, but they are already kicking goals. For example, a quarter of BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance’s geologists are female, and women make up 44 per cent of their engineers. This shows what can be done with commitment from the very top of the business.

“Especially in hard times, our sector needs to ramp up productivity and innovation, and it’s well documented that these go hand-in-hand with employing people from different backgrounds, cultures and genders.

“The massive attendance across the state at eight separate breakfasts to witness the presentation of these awards is a clear demonstration of our sector’s continued commitment to its goal of at least 20 per cent women in non-traditional roles by 2020.”

The awards have been presented by QRC and WIMARQ since 2006.

(ends)

To view BHP Billiton’s videos, click here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146529003@N02/32401546313/in/album-72157678973405775/>

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Photographs available on request.

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Runner-Up	Lucy Martin	Fortitude Valley
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Gladstone girl driven to win

She's only just eligible for her L plates, but Gladstone school girl Abi Meehan already drives race cars and can strip down engines.

It's one of the things that made her stand out to win the prestigious Exceptional School Student category in the Queensland Resources Council's Resources Awards for Women. The award is open to female students in Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA) schools and aims to encourage girls to consider and champion careers in the resources sector.

Abi, a Year 12 student at Chanel College was presented the award today in Brisbane by Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations Grace Grace, Queensland Resources Council (QRC) President Rag Udd and Women in Mining and Resources Queensland (WIMARQ) Chair Maria Joyce before a state-wide audience of almost 900 people.

They were attending, or viewing live via webcast, the annual QRC/WIMARQ International Women's Day Breakfast and Resources Awards for Women presentation, hosted by BHP Billiton.

'My passion for motorsport has been the driving force behind my career aspirations,' said Abi.

'I have never been a person that could just stand back and let others prepare or fix my race car. I needed and wanted to know how to do it myself,' she said.

'Fortunately I have a father who is an ex-race car driver and is completely self-sufficient when building or fixing race cars. This has allowed me to have more of a hands-on experience most don't have the opportunity to.'

This experience has also led to Abi's interest in mechatronic engineering to improve robotics in the resources sector and increase the safety of workers by taking people out of high-risk environments.

Abi already has a slew of achievements under her belt, including being a QMEA ambassador, a National Youth Science Forum Ambassador and University of Queensland Science Ambassador.

And, she also finds time for charity work including Gladstone soup kitchen, the Red Shield Appeal and through Rotary, and the Leukaemia Foundation.

And what does she do to relax? On her school holidays Abi has completed work experience at a high-performance engine builder, and has more lined up at Harley Davidson motorcycles.

QRC Chief Executive Ian Macfarlane congratulated all the winners in this year's awards.

'These awards celebrate and showcase the depth of female talent in Queensland's resources sector, and provides industry with ambassadors and mentors, particularly for their female colleagues and women and students thinking about entering the resources sector,' he said.

'Diverse workforces, just like safe workforces, are more productive, innovative and profitable.

'Particularly in hard times, our sector needs to ramp up productivity and innovation, and it's well documented that these go hand-in-hand with employing people from different backgrounds, cultures and genders.

'It's also important that we ensure our young people know about the wide range of careers open and fantastic opportunities available to them in the resources sector and the QRC is working hard through its QMEA schools to make sure they do.

'The attendance at eight separate functions around the state to witness the presentation of these awards is a clear demonstration of our sector's continued commitment to its goal of at least 20 per cent women in non-traditional roles by 2020.'

'I'd like to make special mention to Glencore's Mount Isa Mines, APLNG and Wesfarmers for making it possible for Abi and the two finalists Josie Henry (Kirwan SHS) and Felicity Finlayson (North Rockhampton SHS) to travel to the awards.'

The awards have been presented by QRC and WIMARQ since 2006.

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Runner-Up	Lucy Martin	Fortitude Valley
Finalist	Trista Brohier	Brisbane
Finalist:	Michelle Elvy	Mackay
Finalist:	Suzannah D'Juliette	Archerfield

Finalist:	Lydia Gentle	Coomera
Finalist:	Meredith Carter	Emerald
GENDER DIVERSITY CHAMPION IN QUEENSLAND RESOURCES		
Winner:	Vince Lavery	Weipa
Finalist:	Kirsty Ocallaghan	North Lakes
Finalist:	Teagan Dowler	Chermside West
Finalist:	Kristy Purdon 0437 020 480	Dysart
Finalist:	Kerry Fullarton	Toowong
EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG WOMAN IN QUEENSLAND RESOURCES		
Winner:	Nikki (Nikhat) Nagin	Moranbah
Runner Up:	Monan Zhang	Virginia
Highly Commended:	Harriet Schuyler	Auchenflower
Finalist:	Natalie Banham	South Brisbane
Finalist:	Ellen King	Chinchilla
Finalist	Emma O'Brien	New Farm
EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND PERFORMANCE		
Winner:	BHP Billiton	
Runner Up:	Rio Tinto	
OUTSTANDING TRADE/TECHNICIAN/OPERATOR		
Winner:	Carolyn Dobson	Moranbah
Runner Up:	Julia Nelson	Weipa
Finalist:	Saraya D'Ath	Redcliffe North
Finalist:	Nicole Pickens	Sarina
OUTSTANDING QMEA STUDENT AWARD		
Winner	Abi Meehan	Chanel College
Finalist	Josie Henry	Kirwan SHS
Finalist	Felicity Finlayson	North Rockhampton SHS

