



News release

Mount Isa, Friday 7 March 2014

## Mount Isa Mines' bright sparks light up QRC Resources Awards for Women

Three of Mount Isa Mines' talented female employees have been honoured at the prestigious Queensland Resources Council (QRC) Resources Awards for Women.

Amy Woods, Install Electrician Mount Isa Copper Operations won the Tradesperson Award while Monica Joseph, Electrical Engineer Zinc-Lead Concentrator received a Highly Commended in the Rising Star category and Megan Hetherington, Cablebolter Mount Isa Copper Operations received a Highly Commended in the Operator category at the awards presentation breakfast held in Brisbane on Friday 7 March.

The awards, which coincide with International Women's Day, celebrate the achievements of women in the resources sector and shine the spotlight on businesses and individuals demonstrating leadership in enhancing the attraction and retention of women in the industry.

Ms Woods' clear passion for her work, her willingness to take on new challenges and her contribution to her local community impressed judges, who applauded her for the role she plays in mentoring young apprentices and encouraging women to consider mining careers.

Accepting her Tradesperson Award win, Ms Woods, who started her career through Mount Isa Mines Apprenticeship Program in 2006, said it was an honour to be recognised on such a big stage and alongside such talented mining women.

"I feel being given the opportunity to pursue a career I love is reward enough, but I will take this opportunity and endeavour to inspire other women to take the plunge and try a trade," Ms Woods said.

"Mount Isa Mines has given me so many opportunities to further my career and their support of women in the resources sector is evident even in my own locker room, with the number of female employees in a range of positions."

Ms Joseph's willingness to seize opportunities, her professional drive and her generosity in inspiring and encouraging other women pursuing mining careers saw her receive a Highly Commended honour in the Rising Star award category.

The 28-year-old is a recent Chair of the north western branch of Engineers Australia and a state representative for Engineers Australia's regional special interest group which focuses on improving member services for engineers in remote areas.

A GLENCORE COMPANY

Mount Isa Mines Limited ABN 87 009 661 447

Ms Joseph said providing platforms where women can begin establishing and building on their professional networks is critical to fostering the success of women in non-traditional roles and industries.

“I believe providing women with access to role models and mentors is valuable in encouraging women to enter and remain in mining jobs and provides tangible benefits in terms of career progression.”

Ms Hetherington’s willingness to change tack in her career and her drive to overcome the challenges she has faced in her mining career caught the judges attention and earned her a Highly Commended award in the Operator category.

Twelve years ago Ms Hetherington was a nursing student looking for a way to supplement her income as a nursing assistant in a local aged-care facility. A casual position as a labourer for an explosives company contracting to Mount Isa Mines changed her career trajectory completely and signalled her transition into the mining industry.

“We work hard, but we also have fun and share a laugh and these moments are often the highlights of my work day. Mining is a demanding environment, and it takes a special type of person to lift spirits when you’ve been working for 12 hours, you’re hot and sweaty, covered in mud, or just having one of those days where despite your best efforts, nothing is going to plan,” Ms Hetherington said.

“I also love working a four on/four off roster because it gives me a huge amount of freedom, and having a work/life balance means I get to work in a job I love and still have time to spend with my teenage daughter and pursue my interests out of work.”

Mike Westerman Chief Operating Officer Copper Assets North Queensland said Ms Woods, Ms Joseph and Ms Hetherington are inspiring role models for other women considering careers in the mining industry.

“Here we have three exceptional women at the top of their game in very different fields, and notably, excelling in professions typically dominated by men,” Mr Westerman said.

“Their success highlights the variety of career pathways available to women in the mining industry particularly in non-traditional roles, and we are very proud of Ms Woods’, Ms Joseph’s and Ms Hetherington’s achievements.”

**Amy Woods**

Ms Woods is an install electrician in Mount Isa Mines' Enterprise and X41 underground copper mines, responsible for the installation and maintenance of the mines' critical electrical infrastructure. This infrastructure includes high voltage cabling to deliver power to all areas of the mine, switchboards and substations, ventilation fans and fan starters, pumps and pump starters and outlets to provide power to our underground drill rigs. Her work is important for sustaining safe work environments for mine workers by ensuring a reliable supply of fresh air throughout the mine and sufficient lighting in work areas.

Ms Woods has also played an integral role in managing a range of electrical infrastructure projects, from the initial design phase through to commissioning. These projects have significantly improved the safety of the underground mining environment while increasing production efficiency and minimising downtime.

**Monica Joseph**

Ms Joseph is an electrical engineer at Mount Isa Mines' Zinc-Lead Concentrator, responsible for planning, scheduling and overseeing various electrical infrastructure projects, including both plant upgrades as well as maintenance projects to improve existing control systems. She also oversees technical, training and support to operations, including assisting maintenance and operating crews to improve the Distributed Control System (DCS) used to monitor and control the Zinc-Lead Concentrator plant from the control room.

In 2011, Ms Joseph completed a Masters degree in Engineering Management via distance education while working full-time and being on call 24-hours a day. This year, she took part in Mount Isa Mines' and Engineers Australia's Professional Development Program to achieve chartered Professional Engineer status.

**Megan Hetherington**

As a cablebolter in Mount Isa Mines' Enterprise and X41 underground copper mines, Ms Hetherington is responsible for operating a 14-tonne drill rig to install critical ground support to new areas of the underground mine and carry out regular maintenance to existing development drives to ensure aging ground support does not present a safety hazard to workers.

In a career spanning 12 years, Ms Hetherington has worked in a range of mining roles; as a labourer, magazine keeper, a driller's offsider assisting a jumbo rig operator, and now as a cablebolter with her own drill rig and assistant. Over the past five years, Megan has stepped up into a Shift Supervisor role as required. As Acting Supervisor she is responsible for many direct reports, all of whom are men.

Ends

## Media contacts

Lara Lavers	Michelle Connolly
Telephone +61 7 4744 2955	Telephone +61 7 4744 3144
Mobile +61 466 747 616	Mobile +61 478 325 738
Email lara.lavers@glencore.com.au	Email michelle.connolly@glencore.com.au

## Notes to editors

### **About Glencore Xstrata**

Glencore Xstrata is one of the world's largest global diversified natural resource companies. As a leading integrated producer and marketer of commodities with a well-balanced portfolio of diverse industrial assets, we are strongly positioned to capture value at every stage of the supply chain, from sourcing materials deep underground to delivering products to an international customer base.

The Group's industrial and marketing activities are supported by a global network of more than 90 offices located in over 50 countries. Our diversified operations comprise over 150 mining and metallurgical sites, offshore oil production assets, farms and agricultural facilities. We employ approximately 190,000 people, including contractors. For more information visit [www.glencorexstrata.com](http://www.glencorexstrata.com).

### **About Mount Isa Mines**

Mount Isa Mines operates two separate mining and processing streams, copper and zinc-lead-silver, to deliver natural resources that have enduring roles in our society. The site hosts the world's largest zinc resource base, as well as the biggest network of underground mine development in the world.

The site includes two copper underground mines, one zinc underground mine and two zinc open cut mines; the copper concentrator and smelter, as well as the zinc-lead concentrator, lead smelter and zinc filter plant. Together, these represent Australia's largest industrial complex.

As well as the Australian market, our products are exported to countries throughout Asia, Europe and the UK, contributing billions of dollars to the Australian economy every year. We provide work for almost 5,000 employees and contractors and are dedicated to supporting local people, local businesses, and creating strong links between our operations and the city of Mount Isa. We do this through generous contributions to local health, education, cultural and capacity building initiatives and the funding of vital public services and infrastructure development projects. Since 1924, our operations have been at the heart of life in 'the Isa'. For more information, visit [www.mountisamines.com.au](http://www.mountisamines.com.au).