

Awards celebrate women in extractives

Colin Williscroft - Thu, 21 Mar 2024

An environmental compliance manager, an Auckland lab manager and a West Coast geologist were the big winners at yesterday's Women in Extractives Awards – but the contributions of others were also acknowledged.

Stevenson Aggregates' environmental compliance manager Tara Edwards-Tusa picked up the Kristy Christensen Memorial Award for being a diversity champion; Winstone Aggregates' Charlotte Harrison won the Leader of the Year Award; while Federation Mining's Charlotte Buxton-Blue took home the Emerging Star Award.



The awards, which celebrate diversity and inclusion, were announced at a lunch in Hamilton yesterday attended by about 120 people.

It's the second year the awards have been held and Straterra chief executive Josie Vidal says the judges' job gets more difficult as the increasing contribution of more women in the sector emerges.

"We had 15 nominations across the three award categories and every single one was worthy of nomination and should be very proud of themselves."

Aggregate and Quarry Association chief executive Wayne Scott, who holds the same role for industry health and safety body MinEx, says the event organisers were "blown away" by the strength of the nominations.

"Some of these women are trail blazers who have paved the way for others to join the industry and we thank them for that. Accepting diversity and valuing inclusion is important to a healthy and safe workplace."

Award winners

Edwards-Tusa is the first to be awarded the Kristy Christensen award since it was awarded to Christensen posthumously last year.

As well as her role in environmental compliance, she is also a kaiārahi – or navigator – for Fulton Hogan subsidiary Stevenson Aggregates and is the inaugural co-chair for Te Ara Tika, the Māori steering committee set up by Fulton Hogan.

She leads the continued advancement of Te Ao Māori across the companies in Auckland and is seen to have the leadership skills to guide Stevenson Aggregates to a place of cultural inclusion, understanding and diversity. She also has the full support of her peers.

The judges noted that Edwards-Tusa never makes anyone feel like she doesn't have time for them, even when she is constantly under the pump – a rare skill that makes her a great leader.

Winstone Aggregates' Harrison is viewed as showing the difference between management and leadership, leading from the front and being highly regarded by her team.

A firm believer in safety first, Harrison's team has created a wall at work with reminders of why they all want to go home safely.

Scott says she took her commitment to health and safety outside the work gate to help a cyclist distressed by passing trucks, sitting with them until they felt safe.

Recently promoted to senior geologist at the Snowy River underground gold mine, Federation Mining's Buxton-Blue has played an integral role in setting up industry best practice geological logging, mapping and database systems.

The award judges noted that others in the geology team look up to her, and she is managing diamond drilling contractors in a highly changing underground production environment, with challenging drilling conditions.

Finalists

Vidal and Scott said they wanted to acknowledge the other award finalists including:

Emerging Star – Tegan Phillips, OceanaGold; Rosie Toto-Croucher, Stevenson Aggregates; Michaela Mulligan, OceanaGold; and Brittney Flavell, Winstone Aggregates.

Leader of the Year – Alison Paul, OceanaGold; Jo Young, Stevenson Aggregates; and Shannon Richards, OceanaGold.

Kristy Christensen Memorial – Bonnie Walker, Fulton Hogan.