

Tribute to Kristy Christensen

Bernie Napp - Thu, 24 Feb 2022



Kristy Christensen blazed a trail for women in mines and quarries in Australasia, and her passing has robbed the sector of someone who still had much to contribute, MinEx says.

“Kristy joined our board less than two years ago and very quickly made her mark as an advocate for the industry changing its approaches and attitudes to employing women,” says MinEx chief executive Wayne Scott.

“She did this as a mining engineer for an ironsands company and through her company, [Shesfreetobe](#) – the title says it all.”

In October 2020, Kirsty was the only New Zealand woman chosen from a record 626 world-wide nominations in the fourth edition of the [100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining](#), run by the Women in Mining UK organisation.

MinEx board chair Chris Baker said [at the time](#), “We think we have equal opportunity but we want more women to choose to work in our industry and Kristy’s work, and this recognition, will help achieve that.”

Among industry leadership roles, Kristy was secretary of the AusIMM NZ Branch, and a Minerals Sector Awards judge.

Kristy’s legacy

Scott says this week’s MinEx board meeting learned that one of Kristy’s last acts was to donate the base resources she’d developed for her Shesfreetobe female inclusion in heavy industry business, so women could continue to be supported within the extractives sector.

“That’s just so typical of Kristy. She’d brought together resources some of which will still be freely available to employers so they can self-assess the challenges women face in their workplace.”

Scott runs an annual series of health and safety workshops for quarries and mines around New Zealand and Kristy was to be the keynote speaker this year.

“She will be greatly missed, and our sector’s thoughts are with her family and friends.”

Kristy’s husband Jamin says her wider family will continue to run Shesfreetobe to provide its fuller range of services to women in employment in the extractives industry.

Kristy passed away on 18 February in hospice care, following a diagnosis of stage 4 cancer in December.

Anyone who wishes to can mark Kristy’s passing by making a contribution to Hospice Waikato.

Inside Resources will be publishing an obituary, and welcomes contributions on Kristy, her life and career. Contact: bernie.napp@freemanmedia.co.nz