

# Nominees sought for Women in Extractives awards

Heidi Bendikson - Wed, 20 Dec 2023

Nominations are open for the second annual Women in Extractives awards, to be presented at the Komatsu Women in Extractives lunch next year.

The event, which is being held at Hamilton Airport's JetPark Hotel on 20 March, acknowledges women who work in the sector, as well as providing a networking opportunity.

Straterra chief executive Josie Vidal says she encourages everyone to take the time to make a nomination for the awards.

"There is only one winner, but it is really useful for us to see the nominations and see what people are doing in the industry."

She says it gives colleagues the opportunity to acknowledge the nominee, "whether they win or not".

The event is supported by Straterra, the Aggregate and Quarry Association and MinEx.

## Awards

Nominees are sought for three awards, all of which are open to those working in quarrying and mining.

The Kristy Christensen Memorial Award seeks to recognise those – like the award's namesake – who make a valued contribution to diversity and inclusion in the industry.

Christensen, who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2022, set up Shesfreetobe in 2019 to provide female inclusion advice and training for companies in heavy industries.

She also developed toolkits for women working in areas where there is limited access to toilet facilities – barrier she had faced working long shifts underground.

Nominations are also sought for an Emerging Star Award and Leader of the Year Award. Nominations are open until close of business on 21 February. Nomination forms can be found [here](#).

## Networking

Vidal says diversity in mining is improving, particularly for women. There are also more young people coming through the industry – and the Emerging Star Award is an opportunity to recognise them.

She adds that the awards lunch is important for encouraging more people into the industry and to stay in the industry, as it can be an isolated place.

"It is an opportunity to get together with the wider industry to see who is there and what everyone else is doing."

The awards also recognise the importance of leadership, which Vidal notes is especially important in the health and safety space.

Health and safety issues are also likely to feature at the event, with current chair of Safer Farms, Lindy Nelson, a keynote speaker. Nelson is also founder of the Agri-Women's Development Trust.

## Event

Last year's inaugural Women in Extractives lunch was attended by 90 people in Christchurch.

Vidal says that event had a really good vibe to it and those attending enjoyed it enough to say, 'yes there is a future in this'.

Its sponsors – Komatsu, Hanga-Aro-Rau and Mito – have all signed on to support the event for another year.

Vidal says this year's airport location will make it easier for those coming from further afield as they can fly in and out on the day. But she recommends that those doing so book flights early, noting there are a limited number of flights into Hamilton.

Tickets for the event can be booked [here](#).

