

## MEDIA RELEASE

### 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VICTORIAN MINES RESCUE COMPETITION

The Annual Victorian Mines Rescue Competition is being held in Bendigo again this year from Friday 5 August to Sunday 7 August. The competition will be at the Central Deborah Gold Mine as well as several other sites around the district. This is a national competition with nine teams with representatives from four states competing. The competition is organised annually by the Minerals Council of Australia with the strong support of The Bendigo Trust as managers of the Central Deborah Gold Mine.

Mr Chris Fraser, Executive Director, Victoria, Minerals Council of Australia said today “the Victorian Mines Rescue Competition is set up to improve the safety and health of all people involved in the mining industry, and to provide practical training to the mine site rescue teams. When members of mining operations apply teamwork to the underground search and rescue, rope rescue, first aid and fire fighting skills they become a vital emergency rescue squad. Competitions such as this one provide invaluable and realistic training for the rescue squads. We are very fortunate to have access to the Central Deborah Gold Mine which normally operates as an authentic underground tourist mine.”

The participants this year are:

Cadia Valley Mines	NSW	Stawell Gold Mines	Vic
Deanmac Emergency Services	Vic	Barrick Gold of Aust.	WA
Northparkes Mine	NSW	Newmont Jundee	WA
Olympic Dam Mine	SA	Rosebery	Tas
Oscar 1 Rescue Squad	Vic		

Members of the public are welcome to come along and witness the teams in actions at the Central Deborah Gold Mine.

***A rescue demonstration for the media will be held at the Central Deborah Gold Mine at 10:00 on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005.***

The competition is to commence with a welcome function on Friday evening 5 August 2005. At the welcome the Mayor of the Greater City of Bendigo, Councillor, Rod Fyffe will draw the order of the team exercises.

Mrs Wendy Cook, the Competition Manager said, “each team is comprised of six members who compete in seven different emergency skill exercises. The emergencies are based on, or as near as possible to, accidents that could occur on a mine or processing site. Our ‘casualties’ are often difficult to treat and, with the aid of a professional make-up artist, are very realistic.”

“Each of the exercises is designed to test specific skills. For example, the Search and Rescue exercise is underground and under oxygen. Conditions can also be controlled, for example the addition of smoke, or a patient who is uninjured but difficult to handle.”

The Victorian Mine Rescue Competition has earned a nation-wide reputation as a first class mine rescue competition. The calibre of the teams and the rigor of the competition mean that the margin between the teams at the end of the weekend is often as little as 2 percentage points.

The teams will come together for a special awards dinner on Sunday night when the overall winner along with the winners of the individual sections of the competition will be announced.

For more information please contact Mrs Wendy Cook, the Competition Manager on 03 5441 2831 or 0403 720 716 or Mr Chris Fraser on 0413 833 229.