



MEDIA RELEASE

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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STAWELL GOLD MINE WINS VICTORIAN MINES RESCUE COMPETITION

Leviathan Resources' Mine Rescue team from Stawell was tonight announced the overall winner of the Victorian Mines Rescue competition for 2005. The Stawell team won the event ahead of eight others from five states. Second was Newmont's Jundee team, and third was Barrick's composite team, both from WA.

The competition was held in Bendigo during the weekend and was hosted by the Minerals Council of Australia Victorian Division.

During his keynote address at the Presentation Dinner tonight, Mr Robert Logan, Chair, MCA's National Safety and Health Committee, said the competition provides the opportunity for all participants to hone their rescue skills in practical, real life situations which are critical emergency response priorities for the industry.

"The competition really challenges the skills and teamwork of participants in firefighting, search and rescue, first aid, rope rescue and general emergency response in underground mine situations.

"All of the participants are leaders in striving for a strong safety culture, that is clearly evident by their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work. All teams are to be congratulated as experts in emergency response for our underground mining operations across the nation."

In a moving presentation, Ms Cathy Louseberg, Captain of the Olympic Dam Mine Rescue Team from South Australia, recognised the passing of one of their team members, sadly fatally injured in an accident at Olympic Dam three weeks ago.

In addition to being awarded the overall competition winner, Victoria's Stawell Gold Mine also took out the individual event awards for search and rescue, rope rescue, firefighting, breathing apparatus practical, and team skills.

Ms Margot Healy, Captain of the Stawell Team, was awarded best Captain of the competition.

Other award winners included the local Bendigo team Oscar 1 which won the Spence Heard Trophy for Teamwork. The Barrick team won the First Aid exercise, the Jundee won the Theory exercise, and the Deanmac team won the Team Safety Award.

The Noel Justice Award was presented to the CFA's Huntly fire training crew and Mr Justin Bowers for their most appreciated practical firefighting exercise.

Mr Steve Bryant, Managing Director of UME, and one of the competition organisers also paid tribute to those who contributed to the success of this year's competition, especially sponsors and supporters, volunteer adjudicators and casualties, who gave the events a sense of realism.

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