



MEDIA RELEASE

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Construction girls get the call to the spotlight

Queensland women carving out careers in all fields of construction are being invited to enter this year's National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Queensland Excellence Awards.

Queensland women in all facets of general and civil construction, design, management, sustainable practices, marketing/community engagement and innovation are being called on to step forward and enter this year's **National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) 2008 Queensland Excellence Awards**.

Radmila Desic, President of NAWIC Queensland – a former carpenter and now working for Construction Skills Queensland in a role that engages women in trades - says the awards are vital for recognising female construction achievements and working towards evening up the gender gaps in the industry.

"These awards showcase the brilliant achievements of Queensland women in construction and in doing so, hopefully promote construction roles to a broader female audience," Ms Desic said.

"There is still a very real industry shortage of women with females making up less than 10 percent of Queensland's construction workforce.

"Yet in infrastructure alone, Queensland is in the throws of more than \$16 billion worth of civil construction projects so there are lots of jobs on offer.

"Compounding issues of the skills shortage crisis and baby boomer retirements are also fueling booming construction employment opportunities for women.

"Construction offers a huge diversity of roles, career paths, opportunities and workplaces plus strong earning potential for women and the NAWIC Awards are about showcasing the women who are fearlessly making an impression on the industry."

This year, Queensland's first registered female builder/carpenter, Beverley Nutley will attend the awards presentation evening as an official guest of honour.

Beverley is now 68 and retired living at Glenwood between Gympie and Maryborough. She first became an apprentice "chippie" for her father in 1957 despite the field being deemed rather taboo for females.

"I spent 10 years on the tools, digging post holes and putting roofs on and can proudly say I built five houses, four drive-in theatres and helped with many more home renovations," Ms Nutley said.

"Construction offers lots of hidden rewards for women and more girls need to be encouraged into trades and other fields of construction.

"I would urge as many girls working out there in all fields of construction to step forward and enter the NAWIC Queensland 2008 Excellence Awards."

Women working in private or public spheres of construction, for large or small organisations or self employed are invited to enter.



This year, NAWIC Qld has introduced two new awards and entries are now open across 11 different categories:

1. Brisbane CityWorks Crystal Vision Award for advancing and furthering the interests of women in the construction industry
2. Department of Public Works Award for achievement in construction (general/building)
3. Civil Contractors Federation Award for achievement in construction (civil works) ****NEW for 2008****
4. BUSY at Work Award for achievement in design
5. Mission Australia Award for achievement in product supply and application
6. John Holland Award for achievement as a businesswoman
7. Construction Skills Queensland Award for contribution in building and construction trades
8. Leighton Contractors Award for achievement in sustainable development
9. Laing O'Rourke Award for innovation
10. Office for Women Award to a young achiever
11. Cement Australia Award for achievement in marketing, community engagement/consultation and communication ****NEW for 2008****

Entries close Friday, 3 October 2008.

Winners of the NAWIC Qld Awards for 2007 included:

1. Renaye Peters from Yeronga (Leighton Contractors) who took out two awards for Achievement as a Business Women and the much coveted Crystal Vision Award
2. Melissa Sutton of Wavell Heights (Queensland Rail) who won Department of Public Works Award for Achievement in Construction (General/Building/Civil) for her role on Inner Northern Busway
3. Adeline Teo of MacGregor/Sunnybank (ARUP) who won Award for Achievement in Design for her work on the International Airport Expansion
4. Petie Walker from Hamilton (Leighton Contractors) who won Award for Achievement in Sustainable Development
5. Carlie Wright from Tanah Merah (Brisbane City Council), who is also Queensland's first female plumbing inspector also took out two categories – Be Constructive Award for Contribution in Building and Construction Trades as well as the Office for Women Award to a Young Achiever.
6. Kirsti Simpson from Clayfield (HASSELL) won the Leighton Contractors Award for Innovation.

The NAWIC Queensland Awards Ceremony and Party, which will be attended by a host of dignitaries including Governor of Queensland Penelope Wensley, is being staged at MIRRA, 86 Bridge Street, Fortitude Valley on Friday, 31 October 2008.

The NAWIC Queensland 2008 Excellence Awards are proudly presented by Bovis Lend Lease with the support of award sponsors Brisbane City Works, BUSY at Work, Cement Australia, Civil Contractors Federation, Construction Skills Queensland, John Holland, Laing O'Rourke, Leighton Contractors, Mission Australia, Office for Women and Queensland Department of Public Works.

NAWIC is a non-profit volunteer organisation that offers career advice, forums for exchanging ideas, mentoring, skills development, industry education opportunities and networking for women in construction.

For more information about the NAWIC Qld 2008 Excellence Awards nominations or awards ceremony/party visit www.nawic.com.au or email gldawards@nawic.com.au

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For further media information, images or interviews, please contact:

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MEDIA PLEASE NOTE:

- Interviews with past NAWIC winners, 2008 entrants, Radmila Desic (Qld President) and Beverley Nutley are available on request
- Industry statistics and images related to women in Queensland construction are also available on request