

SA NEWS

SA Australia Day honours recipients: A salute to our best

From scientists to singers, executives to philanthropists, they help knit our community together – we profile 14 great South Australians who featured in this year's Australia Day Honours List.

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SA Australia Day honours recipient: Jacqui McGill AO



Over 30 years Jacqui McGill broke down barriers in the male-dominated resources industry, culminating in a three-year stint overseeing the economic powerhouse that is the Olympic Dam mine in the state's far north.

In recognition of her success in the industry, and her commitment to changing attitudes and workplace culture, McGill has been awarded an AO for her service to the minerals and mining sector, and to gender equity and workplace diversity.

McGill spent 17 years with BHP, joining in 2001 as a technical superintendent and working her way up to become Olympic Dam' asset president in 2015.

While pleased with her professional achievements, she is particularly proud of the contributions she has made to developing workplaces that support and celebrate diversity.

"I started in the (mining) business in 1988 - it was a very different world, she said.

"If you look at what I experienced it wasn't unique at the time but if you heard it today you'd be quite shocked.

"Over thirty years the industry has changed and if I've played a part in that then I'm incredibly proud of my contribution."

McGill left BHP in June 2018, handing over the Olympic Dam reins to another woman - Laura Tyler.

As female representation in the resources sector continues to improve, McGill says it presents an opportunity for young women to pursue a rewarding and varied career.

"I'd say never shy away from a challenge because they really are just opportunities to stretch yourself and achieve something pretty special; she said.

"I'd recommend to young men and women to look at a career in the resources industry. It's been incredibly rewarding for me - I've lived all over Australia and

the world and have been able to learn about some great communities.

"I also think there's a real opportunity for leaders to realise that there's such a great growth opportunity for them to be inclusive - because it's real a win-win."

McGill, who now runs her own consulting business, is chair of TAFE SA, a member of the Premier's Economic Advisory Council and director of the Art Gallery.

- Giuseppe Tauriello