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Women In Resources Awards celebration of skills and achievements

Kalgoorlie Miner, Kalgoorlie

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OPINION PAUL EVERINGHAM

Some of the best and most exciting stories about mining relate to the enormous contribution women have made and are making to our sector.

Yet some of those stories remain unsung and untold. History would have been a factor in that.

The narrative is clearly changing now but I cannot deny that for a long time mining was a male-dominated

environment. Even with the significant strides our sector has taken towards equality, much work remains to be done.

CME's most recent diversity report in 2019 showed steady growth in female participation during the previous five years but women still made up only about 21 per cent of our workforce.

Which is why it is so important that we celebrate the skills, achievements and stories of our 2021 Women In Resources Awards final-

ists. Women such as Linda Deverell, who made a mid-life move from her native New Zealand to start a new career in WA and is now a vital member of the Rocky's Reward project team at Leinster.

Or Christina Fahl, who these days is a highly regarded technical leader at Alcoa, but 30 years ago was inspired to work in mining during a Year 10 trip to Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Or Stephanie Graskoski, Michelle Keegan and Rebecca Prain, all of whom have spent parts of their

impressive careers working on mine sites in the Goldfields.

The Women In Resources Awards will be presented on March 5, three days before International Women's Day — but to my mind each of the finalists is already a winner.

So, too, are the tens of thousands of women across WA who work tirelessly every day to help keep mining and resources operations ticking over but whose stories we have not yet heard.

The commitment towards pro-

moting and achieving equality, inclusivity and diversity in the workforce is a genuine one for the CME and its member companies.

With WIRA showcasing the wide variety of jobs, career opportunities and leadership roles available to women in the sector, our vision is to see more accelerated growth in female participation rates.

Paul Everingham is the chief executive of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA.