



Driven towards dream

Mother-of-six receives industry recognition at awards for women

By **RUSSEL GUSE**

Russel.Guse@centraltelegraph.com.au

DRIVING huge mining machinery as big as a house is “no worries” for Patricia Rankin.

Woorabinda resident Patricia, a production trainee at Moura’s Dawson Mine, was presented with a high commendation in the operator category at the Queensland Resources Council’s 2010 Resources Awards for Women (RAW) in Brisbane recently.

“This recognition really means so much to me,” Patricia said. “I’m pursuing my dream of driving trucks and developing new skills but I am so proud to know that, at the same time, my achievements are having a positive impact on other women, especially those in my home community.”

“I tell others how manageable it is to balance being a mother and having a career,” the mother-of-six said.

“I try to help break down the cultural barrier that restricts a lot of the women pursuing anything other than motherhood.”

Through conversations, Patricia encourages women to pursue introductory training programs such as that which opened her eyes to the mining industry.

In 2008, several mining companies, in conjunction with the Salvation Army Employment Plus and the Department of Education and Indigenous Relations, approached the Woorabinda community to initiate the Mine Readiness Train-

ing Program.

Patricia was working at the local primary school at the time and, after consideration, applied. She started her traineeship at Anglo-American’s Dawson Mine in December, 2008.

“The thing I love most about my job is the fact that I get to drive some of the largest machinery in the world. They’re so big, some days I feel like I’m driving my house around.

“There are so many challenging elements to what I do. I am constantly learning different methods of operating and ways to approach different situations.

“Since a young age, I have been fascinated by heavy machinery and my interest only grew due to the num-

ber and sheer size of the different machines I would see working at nearby mines.

“My children love hearing my stories when I return home and are so proud of me and all the things I am learning and achieving. To me, this industry seems like an endless supply of opportunity which I can’t wait to get my hands on.”

Patricia plans to continue her development within the mining industry to become a trainer and assessor.

“I believe this would be a great milestone for both me and my community and I hope one day I am able to train fellow members from Woorabinda and other indigenous communities.”



POSITIVE IMPACT: Dawson Mine production trainee Patricia Rankin was presented with a high commendation in the Operator category at the Queensland Resources Council’s 2010 Resources Awards for Women. She is pictured with Anglo-American Metallurgical Coal (AAMC) chief executive officer Seamus French and AAMC regional head of operations Dieter Haage.

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