

Press release

“Steel Caps Swapped for Stilettos” at Women in Mining WA Paraburdoo Forum

24 June 2011

Steel caps were swapped for stilettos by over 120 delegates attending the inaugural Women in Mining and Resources Western Australia (WIMWA) forum held in the mining town of Paraburdoo last week.

The conference was hosted by Rio Tinto and included a Greater Paraburdoo mine site and plant facilities site tour and networking dinner with four key note speakers.

Delegates from across Western Australia heard insights about the mining industry from key note speakers:

- Denise Goldsworthy, Managing Director Dampier Salt Ltd and 2010 Telstra Businesswoman of the Year;
- Sabina Shugg, 2010 CMEWA Women in Resources Champion Award, founder of WIMWA, and Manager – Mining, Momentum Partners;
- Charlotte McCully, Manager of Mining Yandi Operations; and
- Barbara Wood, Emergency Management Officer Greater Paraburdoo Mine.

General manager Greater Paraburdoo Operations Sinead Kaufman said she was very proud to host this event and gave credit to the outstanding effort of the conference organisers to coordinate and plan the forum.

“This forum has provided an excellent opportunity for women working in the mining industry to get together and share their experiences, and gain an overview as to how Rio Tinto manage their mining operations,” said Ms Kaufman.

Sabina Shugg, who founded WIMWA in 2003 said she was delighted at the number of people who attended both the dinner and site tour.

“The main reason for holding this event in Paraburdoo is that while many of us in the industry are members of WIMWA, not everyone can travel to Perth. Hosting WIMWA Paraburdoo 2011 has provided easier access for regional based people and as well as an opportunity to visit an operational site,” she said.

Currently the Greater Paraburdoo Operations employs around 130 female employees which equates to 20.24% of the total workforce.

Of the 53 Aboriginal employees, 15% of those are women.

About Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto is a leading international mining group headquartered in the UK, combining Rio Tinto plc, a London and NYSE listed company, and Rio Tinto Limited, which is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Rio Tinto's business is finding, mining, and processing mineral resources. Major products are aluminium, copper, diamonds, energy (coal and uranium), gold, industrial minerals (borax, titanium dioxide, salt, talc) and iron ore. Activities span the world but are strongly represented in Australia and North America with significant businesses in South America, Asia, Europe and southern Africa.

Cont.../

For further information including photographs, please contact:

Media Relations, Australia / Asia

Gervase Greene

Office: +61 (0) 8 9327 2975

Mobile: +61 (0) 408 098 572

Rebecca Murphy

Office: +61 (0) 8 9143 5397

Mobile: +61 (0) 419 933 631

Website: www.riotinto.com

Email: media.enquiries@riotinto.com enquiries.mediaaustralia@riotinto.com

Twitter: Follow @riotinto on Twitter