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Media Release

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Bell Bay Aluminium shines in 2021 Women in Manufacturing & Resources Awards

Four outstanding women from Bell Bay Aluminium were recognised at the annual Tasmanian Women in Manufacturing & Resources Awards for their contributions to creating stronger, more gender diverse and inclusive work environments at last night's 2021 award presentation in Hobart.

The annual awards are coordinated by the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council, in conjunction with the AusIMM Women in Mining Network Tasmania, to create awareness of the inspirational women working in resources, mining and manufacturing and encourage other women to pursue careers in these Tasmanian industries.

Aleesa Shepherd, crew leader, won the Exceptional Woman in Tasmanian Resources Award.

Kylie Sherriff, process operator, won the Outstanding Tasmanian Tradeswoman, Operator or Technician Award.

Amby Ramasubramanian, process engineer, was a joint winner of the Exceptional Young Woman in Tasmanian Resources Award.

Hayley Williams, power controller, was highly commended in the Outstanding Tasmanian Tradeswoman, Operator or Technician Award category.

Bell Bay Aluminium general manager Shona Markham, paid tribute to Aleesa, Kylie, Amby and Hayley and their inspirational stories.

"We are extremely proud of the recognition Aleesa, Kylie, Amby and Hayley have received in these awards. These four women reflect the enormous value that diversity and inclusion brings to our business. Each is an outstanding role model for women and men working at our operation and in our industry. I am inspired by the genuine commitment they all have to promoting and achieving diversity, inclusion and equality at Bell Bay Aluminium."

Winner of the Exceptional Woman in Tasmanian Resources Award, Aleesa Shepherd said, "Speaking on behalf of my colleagues, Kylie and Amby, the three of us are absolutely and unexpectedly delighted to be winners of these awards. While the smelter is still a male-dominated workplace, it's incredibly important to us to make sure we all play a part in creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone—no matter gender, culture, or otherwise. It's incumbent on us

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to be part of a positive environment that helps to shift the dial and biases and foster a safe space for others who might be considering a role at the smelter or in the resources industry.”

Amby, Aleesa and Kylie will automatically progress to the national awards, which will be hosted by the Minerals Council of Australia in Canberra on 1 September.

For further information and requests for interviews, please contact:

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About Aleesa, Kylie, Amby and Hayley

Aleesa Shepherd, crew leader, Reconstruction

Originally from Tasmania, Aleesa and her husband moved to Perth in 2008, where she worked for three years as a laboratory technician. In 2015, they moved back to Tasmania where Aleesa started a family and embraced stay-at-home mum life. Encourage by her husband in 2019, Aleesa applied for an operator role at the smelter and started as a process operator in Carbon, just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Fourteen months on, as the Reconstruction Crew Leader, she is responsible for managing the smelter’s build and cell turnaround team. Aleesa is a mum to four kids under 10 and also runs her own Instagram page @Reclaim_Wellness, which she started during lockdown to help others make positive lifestyle changes through an online community. Aleesa is also Peer Supporter at the smelter and plans to study a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering.

Kylie Sherriff, process operator, Metal Products

A former beautician, Kylie works in the smelter’s cast house. Kylie is a member of BBA’s Emergency Response Team (ERT) and has stepped up to take on the ERT vice captaincy on her shift. Joining the ERT was something she wanted to do from the day she started work at BBA. She has a passion for emergency services work and in 2021 will compete in the Tasmania Minerals Emergency Response Competition in BBA’s ERT, with two other female work colleagues. This will be the first time that women have represented BBA in the competition. Kylie also volunteers with the George Town TFS and the George Town SES.

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Amby Ramasubramanian, process engineer, Carbon

Amby was raised in Jamaica. Her family moved to Australia in 2010 after her Dad accepted a role with Rio Tinto's Yarwun Alumina Refinery in Gladstone. Her father's time as an engineer in the mining industry definitely shaped where she would take her own career. Fast forward to 2015 and she graduated with a Bachelor of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering (Honours) from the University of Queensland in Brisbane. Officially joining the BBA team in January 2019 as a graduate engineer, Amby has since started as a process engineer, where her day-to-day work involves resolving operational issues such as stability or equipment reliability.

Hayley Williams, power controller, Power Supply

Formerly a veterinary nurse, Hayley started an electrical apprenticeship at Bell Bay Aluminium in 2016. After her apprenticeship, she secured a position at the smelter as a power controller in the Power Supply team, as the first female power controller in BBA's 66 year history. As the only female in a team of 12, and in a position of significant responsibility, Hayley helps operate and maintain the high voltage electrical supply to all of the site. Hayley was also a finalist in the 2020 Tasmanian Apprentice of the Year Awards.