

**Speech by Mrs Gina Rinehart
Patron of the Australian Rowing Team and Rowing Australia
Executive Chairman of the Hancock Prospecting Group, Roy
Hill and S. Kidman & Co
Hancock Prospecting 2018 Rower of the Year Awards
Saturday 3 November 2018, Sydney**

Good evening Olympians, Paralympian's, World Champions, rowers, coaches and the entire rowing family.

It is wonderful to be here again as your Patron to share with you, your families and coaches, a night to celebrate your incredible achievements over the past 12 months, and to have the pleasure to present the Rinehart Rowing Leadership Award and the Male and Female Crew of the Year Awards.

I spoke last year at these awards about how highly I regard your dedication, self-discipline and your wonderfully strong desires to represent your country. I was so thrilled to see these attributes demonstrated again this year as I watched the men's and women's eights win the Grand Challenge and Remenham Cups in course records at Henley Royal Regatta, the first time these events have been won by Australian crews since 2000 and 2001.

Whilst I was not able to be in Plovdiv for the World Rowing Championships, I know that I would have witnessed these again through the incredible performances, the best as I understand it in many years for the Australian Rowing Team.

On the world stage and every time you wear the green and gold you are each acting as ambassadors for Australia. As part of the Australian Rowing Team you are role models for generations who respect and admire your excelling and character. Your hard work, humility, the self-discipline, the commitment to work tirelessly day after day pushing yourselves early morning after early morning, to drive your successes.

I asked, what would you like to hear me speak about tonight? I'm excited to say, I was told "leaders." Yes, an interesting and exciting topic, but real leaders are ones committed to doing what is best or right rather than what is popular.

Our country was built on pioneers, the leaders of our earlier years. Pioneers like my own forefathers, who in a small wooden vessel, "sea ripple," ventured north in the 1860s about 1000 miles, risking their lives and savings, leaving behind them the city conveniences of Perth for the unknown, and started our first agriculture industry in the north, and built the first port in the north at Cossack and first town at Roebourne.

They built all this themselves, without any government help, without doctors for themselves or their children, without shops or schools, having to make do, or do without. Having read a little of their diaries, things were tough, but their character stood strong - what leaders!

Moving on, Sidney Kidman at age 13 with little education, left his home near Adelaide decades later, with only a few shillings in his pocket, the clothes on his back, a thin rug rolled up with a rope and his one-eyed old horse Cyclops who he bought himself.

He asked questions with his enquiring mind, learnt about the bush, worked hard and bought his first station in about 1899, and built up the largest pastoral empire in Australia, and indeed, the largest private landowning in the world. At his peak Kidman had 100 stations, across Australia, and introduced the thought and leadership that with landholdings in different parts he could move his cattle around, to mitigate droughts, fires, and move his cattle to better pastures.

Sadly after his passing, Sir Sidney's outstanding leadership was not continued. The great, incredible empire he built up, diminished to about 11 stations.

My grandfather, James Nicholas, was a friend and business partner with Sidney Kidman. James Nicholas observed that new mineral finds would lead to opening up more country areas that in turn would need mail and supply and passenger services for more Cobb and Co routes, so he asked his friend Sidney to partner with him, supplying the horses his coaches would need for more coach routes.

They led the way, established and rapidly expanded new coach routes, providing an extensive passenger, mail and supplies coach business. James went on to own Cobb and Co in West Australia, building thousands of miles of roads, opening up the West Australian outback, building inns, and making possible the growing outback communities. Always thinking, when he visited London while racing his horses in London, he saw the English buses, redesigned them for rougher Australian conditions and brought the first buses to Australia. Leaders always notice and think and do. They risk and work hard.

Of course, leaders are not only entrepreneurs and contributors, there are also political leaders. Outstanding leaders such as President Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Lee Kuan Yew, each of whom improved the standard of living for their people, Lee Kuan Yew very dramatically, in a few decades, raising his small countries citizens from rickshaws to the 4th highest wealth per capita in the world, via low tape and low taxes.

All this without minerals in his country, without adequate land for agriculture, and even without water, which has to be imported from Malaysia. And today, Prime Minister Modi, who established the mantra, "*From Red Tape to Red Carpet,*" and worked very hard to cut tape federally in notoriously bureaucratic India, and to encourage other government levels to follow his leadership, which increased economic growth and raised living standards of his people.

He is dedicated to bring hundreds of millions of his people out of poverty, a great and unselfish leader. And another, across the pacific, President Trump, who is leading his country to endeavor to '*Make America Great Again,*' by cutting both tape and taxes. Despite much misrepresenting and worse media, President Trump's economic policies are working, with greatly increased consumer and business confidence, the lowest unemployment in 49 years, improving the lives of the disadvantaged by job creation.

It's beyond me with this example of leadership across our waters, that we don't have the political leadership to follow suit. Indeed I learnt at the Forbes CEO Global Forum recently, it is expected that President Trump will go down as the greatest American leader ever, so, those interested in leadership, please observe President Trump. But not through CNN!

Today, according to Forbes, we are in a world where 40 percent of companies that exist today, won't exist in 5 years. Can you imagine the need for company leadership that will involve!

I also want to mention our president, and Olympian, Rob Scott. I am very appreciative as I am sure you are too, of his dedicated efforts and leadership. Thank you Rob.

Now it's time to present with great pleasure the Gina Rinehart Rowing Leadership Award. This award is presented to a senior rower who competes at the international level, displays outstanding leadership skills on and off the water, shows personal excellence through study and or career milestones, and finally, someone who is a strong and enthusiastic representative of the Australian Rowing Team and Australia.

The winner of this year's award has set a great example and performance standard both on and off the water. I was able to see him at the 2018 Henley Royal Regatta.

He was a member of a crew who won medals at the World Rowing Cups, claimed victory at the Henley Royal Regatta and then went on to win a silver medal as part of Australia's Men's Eight. The first time in eight years that Australia had won a medal in this boat at a World Championship.

In addition, this person has been committing much of his own time to finish his medical studies which I believe will be complete early in 2019. He also is studying philosophy as a part time endeavor during training. He consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, and, as a senior member of the team, supports his teammates and is prepared to strive for continuous improvement and excellence.

Winning multiple World Championships and World Cup medals, as well as an Olympic silver medal throughout his rowing career, I am very delighted to announce that Joshua Booth is this year's winner. Warmest Congratulations Josh!

Thank you.