

ORE, SHUCKS! GINA MINES GOLD PROSPECT

MINING and pastoral tycoon Gina Rinehart was feted at Swimming Australia's gala awards dinner in Adelaide this week, particularly by chairman John Bertrand.

The America's Cup-winning skipper hailed Australia's richest woman — Swimming Australia's patron and extensive financial backer — for rescuing the sport after a debacle at the 2012 London Olympics.

But Rinehart, who last year became principal owner of Adelaide-based S. Kidman & Co, modestly told assembled stars — including Dawn Fraser, Cate Campbell and power couple Mitch Larkin and Emily Seebohm — of her good fortune at being their patron.



Swimming Australia patron Gina Rinehart at Adelaide Convention Centre with president John Bertrand and champion swimmers including Dawn Fraser, Emily Seebohm, Mitch Larkin, Cate Campbell and Mack Horton. Picture: Supplied

In a speech with a political undercurrent, Rinehart told the Adelaide Convention Centre dinner:

“This country has been built by people putting everything on the line and giving it a go. Built by fine, dedicated people working hard for themselves, their families and, ultimately, for our country.

“Our sport of swimming is similar in so many ways. You train hard, you live the dream through your own efforts of achieving at the highest level, in this case, on a world stage.

“Very few people have attained, through their own endeavours, a position such as you have.

“You never have the attitude ‘although I didn’t win that race, I’m entitled to do so and want to share another person’s medal!’ Instead, you work harder and achieve more.”