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ACM CELEBRATES INSPIRING WOMEN WITH INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AWARDS

07 March 2025 - ACM has announced Lisa Allan, Editor of the *Newcastle Herald*, as the winner of its inaugural International Women's Day Award, recognising her for outstanding leadership, advocacy, and commitment to supporting women both within ACM and the wider community.

The awards, aligned with the 2025 International Women's Day theme, MarchForward, invited staff to nominate women across ACM who inspire others, lead with purpose, and drive positive change. More than 80 nominations were received, showcasing the extraordinary talent and achievements of women across ACM's network.

Lisa's nomination stood out for her exceptional leadership in the Newcastle Herald newsroom, her advocacy for gender equality and her unwavering commitment to mentoring and championing women at all stages of their careers.

"Lisa goes above and beyond to actively lift up other women, she has consistently advocated for greater opportunities for women in our industry and openly shares her knowledge and experience with emerging journalists and students," said Jemma Heuston, ACM's Director of People & Culture, who chaired the judging panel.

One colleague's nomination praised Lisa as "one of the best leaders I have ever worked with," highlighting her ability to both lead from the front and create space to celebrate the achievements of those around her.

In addition to celebrating Lisa's win, ACM also recognised the outstanding achievements of the shortlisted finalists from across the business:

- Anushka Aghaian, Senior Product Manager
- Maree Neale, Director of Commercial Strategy & Operations
- Chloe Hope, Editorial Production Manager
- Lupe Prada, Commercial Strategy & Marketing Director - ACM Agri
- Sarah Morton, Talent and Organisational Development Director
- Jessica Howard, Journalist - The Standard
- Rachael Thornett, Head of Marketing

ACM Managing Director Tony Kendall said the calibre of nominations was a testament to the depth of talent, leadership and passion within the organisation. "It was inspiring to read the nominations and to see the positive impact so many women across ACM are making, not only in our business but in the communities we serve. This initiative is a wonderful reflection of ACM's purpose: to keep our communities strong, informed and connected. I congratulate Lisa, our shortlisted finalists, and all nominees, for the remarkable contributions they make every day," Mr Kendall said.

As the award winner, Lisa will receive \$2000 to support her ongoing professional development and growth.

ACM is committed to fostering diversity, equity and inclusion across the organisation, and ACM's International Women's Day Awards have created an important opportunity to celebrate and amplify the voices of women driving change.

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About ACM

ACM is Australia's largest independent media company collectively reaching over 4 million* regional Australians each month. The ACM network comprises more than 100 brands, including leading regional news brands [The Canberra Times](#), [Newcastle Herald](#), [The Examiner](#), [The Border Mail](#), [The Courier](#) and the [Illawarra Mercury](#). The Agricultural division, ACM Agri, reaches 78% of Australian farmers each month with a national footprint of agricultural specialist brands including [The Land](#) and [Queensland Country Life](#), marketplaces [Farmbuy](#) and [Ag Trader](#) and events [Agquip](#) and [Farmfest](#). We are passionate about keeping our communities strong, informed and connected. ConnectNow with ACM. Visit [ACM.media](#)