

award winning success

words alli grant

ALLI GRANT PROFILES THREE VERY DIFFERENT WOMEN FROM THREE VERY DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES WHO HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON; THEY HAVE ALL RECENTLY BEEN RECOGNISED FOR THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS WITH A HIGH PROFILE AWARD.

It's no secret that the Sunshine Coast is overflowing with intelligent, successful business women; we've been aware of it for years. Thankfully, the rest of the country is catching on, with many of these incredible women acknowledged for their achievements beyond the Sunshine Coast, in a number of high profile award programs.

Lianne Dickson, Caroline Hutchinson and Elenne Ford are three such Sunshine Coast women who have recently taken out a significant gong from three very different industry sectors, banking, the media and farming.



Lianne, a successful banker and branch manager of St George Minyama, recently won the Australian Institute of Management's Professional Manager of the Year Award for the Sunshine Coast for 2008.

This award recognises business people who have made management their profession. Specifically, the category acknowledges ordinary people who do extraordinary things for their organisation on a day-to-day basis. This description accurately sums up the savvy, successful Lianne Dickson, although she certainly is anything but ordinary!

Lianne received the award due to her ability to effectively motivate, mentor and manage her team, in addition to juggling complex management tasks and processes while demonstrating exceptional leadership and communication skills. Any business person, male or female, would certainly be proud of these achievements.

Lianne is a member of the executive of the Sunshine Coast Business Women's Network and is also treasurer of the network, an appropriate role for this successful banker and business woman.

BANKING ON LEADERSHIP

Lianne Dickson
Branch manager, St George Bank,
Minyama



MIX FM's breakfast announcer, Caroline Hutchinson, is well respected on the Sunshine Coast as a woman who is committed to supporting her local community.

In September, Caroline received reward for her tireless community work with acknowledgement as a Child Protection Hero, an award presented as part of Child Protection Week.

Caroline received the award for the media category for Queensland as an outstanding contributor to the protection of children.

For more than ten years, Caroline has been heavily involved in a number of local charities overseeing the protection of children. She is director of the Sunshine Coast Health Foundation and patron of the Integrated Family and Youth Service.

Most famously, Caroline spearheads MIX FM's 'Give Me Five for Kids', raising funds for the children's ward at Nambour General Hospital. In eight years of campaigning, MIX FM's Give Me Five for Kids has raised more than \$1.5 million for the hospital.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Caroline Hutchinson
Breakfast announcer, MIX FM



Mango Hill Farm is a certified organic mango and ginger farm near Peachester in the Sunshine Coast hinterland owned by Elenne Ford, a successful farmer. Still a practicing barrister, farming is most definitely Elenne's primary passion.

In addition to being a working organic farm, Mango Hill boasts a function centre, cooking school and two farm-stays as well as a small range of organic gourmet treats.

Elenne plans to add residential conferences and retreats (such as corporate team building exercises) to the farm's already broad offering in the near future.

Mango Hill Farm was recently named Champion Agribusiness at the Queensland Small Business Champion Awards in August, acknowledgment of Elenne's passion for her farm and for producing quality organic products.

Elenne is now a finalist in the national awards, with the winners to be announced in early November. Locally, Mango Hill Farm also recently won Agribusiness of the Year in the Caloundra Regional Business Awards.

FARMING SUCCESS

Elenne Ford
Owner of Mango Hill Farm (and barrister)