



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cairns media veteran wins Silver at Global Awards in Paris

Cairns business owner and author Kirsty Nancarrow has earned Silver in the 2026 Women Changing the World Award for Woman in Media, recognising decades advocating for and empowering women and regional communities.

The accolade was announced at the Women Changing the World Global Awards in Paris last night (April 22), which attracted more than 1500 nominations from almost 100 countries across a broad range of categories.

Kirsty had a 15-year career with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and founded Women in Media Far North Queensland in 2014 to support and connect regional journalists and communications professionals. She spent years representing journalists in Far North Queensland and Central Australia as an elected member of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

“I received great mentorship when I was a young journalist and I have always had a ‘pay it forward’ approach, supporting other media professionals to grow and thrive in their careers,” Kirsty said. “I am proud to see many of them go on to be political and foreign correspondents.

The Woman in Media Award also recognises Kirsty’s awareness and advocacy work since launching her debut book, *Himalayan Dreams* about Cairns local Som Tamang’s campaign to improve gender equality and protect young women in Nepal from child marriage and trafficking.

“For me, the best part about being a journalist and more recently an author and media trainer is the opportunity to amplify voices that may not otherwise be heard,” Kirsty said.

Kirsty is a member of the Rotary eClub of Empowering Women and Girls and will deliver a free online talk in on 14 July. Registrations: <https://events.humanitix.com/writing-the-next-chapter#main>

The Women Changing the World Global Awards, founded by Far North Queensland entrepreneurs Katy Garner and Peace Mitchell in conjunction with humanitarian Dr Tererai Trent, are in their fourth

2026 Women Changing the World Awards
wcwawards.com



year. The Gold for Woman in Media went to Martha Asumata Agas from the News Agency of Nigeria. Jessica Hansen from Alliance for Smiles in the United States is the 2026 Woman of The Year.

For more information on the Women Changing the World Awards visit <https://wcvawards.com>.

Media enquiries: Kirsty Nancarrow 0400130634 www.kirstynancarrow.com
kirstynancarrow@yahoo.com

Background:

Kirsty Nancarrow has been in the media industry for more than 30 years. She started her journalism career at *The Blacktown Guardian* in Sydney before moving to Alice Springs to join the ABC in 1999. Kirsty relocated to Cairns in 2010 and was the Lead News Reporter/Chief of Staff for ABC Far North until 2017. Kirsty is the Founder and Director of [Regional Media Training](#) and the author of *Himalayan Dreams: The Story of Som Tamang – how a child slave moved mountains to save a generation in Nepal*. She is a passionate advocate for gender equality and mental health.