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BUSINESS HUNTER WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE LIFE MEMBER

Trailblazing business advocate Katie Brassil has been bestowed Life Membership of **Business Hunter** in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the region's business community at their Annual General Meeting, today.

Ms Brassil is the first female to receive the organisation's highest honour and joins a select group of individuals to hold the title.

Outgoing Business Hunter President, Tony Rhodes congratulated Ms Brassil on behalf of the Board and Management, acknowledging her exceptional service.

"This title is reserved for those who have left a profound imprint, not just on our organisation but the broader business community that Business Hunter exists to serve. Threads of Katie's immense legacy are still evident at Business Hunter and this honour picks up on that. Katie takes her place today among the greats and we're delighted to take this opportunity to thank her for her service," said Mr Rhodes.

First appointed as a Director to the Business Hunter board in 2008, Ms Brassil served until 2014, completing an impressive six-year term. During this time she also served as Business Hunter's representative on the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (WRHS) Board, and continues to serve on the WRHS board today.

Working with former Business Hunter CEO, Kristen Keegan, Ms Brassil was instrumental in establishing the Hunter Business Mining lunch series, which launched in March 2012 and continues to operate today as a forum for discussion, collaboration and knowledge sharing across the broader theme of energy.

Incoming Business Hunter President, Lauren Eyles said Ms Brassil was a stalwart of the Hunter business community and acknowledged her role in increasing diversity and representation in male-dominated domains.

"This award pays homage to Katie's achievements and efforts over many years in her industry, board rooms and in the community. A genuine pioneer, she has achieved many firsts throughout her career, and we're grateful she's now helping women to see themselves represented at every layer of our organisation," said Ms Eyles.

Ms Brassil said she was honoured to receive the award and acknowledged the contribution her peers make to the Hunter business community.

"I am truly surprised and thank Business Hunter for bestowing such a huge honour. I appreciate the significance whilst also acknowledging in the Hunter we are blessed with an abundance of business leaders who are just as deserving.

“Being a passionate ambassador and advocate for the Hunter is easy with our rich and proud history, diverse regional economy and a future full of exciting new opportunities and projects that will see us continue to be NSW’s powerhouse.

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