

MEET THE BOSS

Angus MacAlister

As chief operating officer of the Australian Institute of Management, Angus MacAlister's role is focused on best practice in leadership. While his own experience in management roles across the globe helps him enormously, it also serves as a reminder of how easy it can be for leaders to veer off course.

"I started out working retail in Scotland. I was leading a team of 30 people by the time I was 21 years old, but I made some terrible mistakes in those early years," he says. One was getting rid of the window cleaners to cut costs.

"My sales went down immediately, as people couldn't see the merchandise!" he says, laughing.

"Sometimes people get focused on numbers, instead of looking at the whole picture."

Not so now. MacAlister's role at AIM draws on his diverse experience across retail, professional services, recruitment and non-profit organisations.

"You lead people by being honest, genuine, considerate and consistent. If you get a good boss, it has a great implication on the company, and on society," he says.

SUE WHITE

Curriculum vitae

Name Angus MacAlister
Current position Chief operating officer, Australian Institute of Management (AIM)

Responsibilities As COO of a non-profit entity and education provider, MacAlister helps AIM skill up Australian managers in best practice and current management trends.

Education Bachelor of arts (with distinction) in business studies from Edinburgh Napier University.

Postgraduate diploma in HR from Glasgow Caledonian University.

Additional training/courses Completed numerous short courses.

Professional associations Fellow of AIM. Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Honourable mentions University medal during bachelor's degree. Currently inspired by the work of the Octant Foundation, a non-profit organisation (established by AIM) that takes an innovative approach to creating and coaching leaders.

Strength Listening to all sides of an argument.

Weakness Switching off.

Management style and tips My style is pretty inclusive, I like to listen to people's opinions about their problems and challenges.

Work motto You manage things, but you lead people. People often get those confused.

