



**THE KENNEDY AWARDS**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **ABC sponsors coveted Paul Lockyer Award**

The NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in NSW Journalism is delighted to announce the Australian Broadcasting Corporation is sponsoring the *Paul Lockyer Award for Outstanding Regional Broadcast Reporting*, to be presented at this year's gala event on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

The ABC's generous support of the coveted award - named in honour of the late ABC and Nine Network television journalist, Paul Lockyer, who, along with fellow ABC employees, pilot Gary Ticehurst and cameraman John Bean, were killed in a helicopter crash at Lake Eyre on August 18, 2011 - means that for the first time the *Outstanding Regional Broadcast Reporting* category has attracted a major sponsor.

The Daily Advertiser, Wagga Wagga, was the inaugural winner of the Paul Lockyer Award for Outstanding Regional Reporting in 2012 for its coverage of devastating floods that swept through the region. Last year Seven News's Hugh Whitfield took out the Paul Lockyer Award for Outstanding Regional Broadcast Reporting for a series of stories on bushfires that ravaged central western NSW in January 2013.

The prestigious *Outstanding Regional Broadcast Reporting Award* recognises excellence in broadcasting a major NSW news event in the current financial year.

Announcing the ABC's sponsorship of the award, Kennedy Foundation board member, Peter Ryan, thanked the ABC for its ongoing support and commitment to the NRMA Kennedy Awards.

"It is indeed great news that the ABC has come on board with generous sponsorship of the Paul Lockyer Award for Outstanding Regional Broadcast Reporting, an award that honours one of the ABC's finest and a category that has now been won by a television network and a daily newspaper over the past two years," Mr Ryan said.

“The award recognises crack regional broadcast reporting by professionals who keep the bush and regional cities and towns up to date on the latest events dramatically affecting their lives and shaping their futures.

“It is a fitting recognition of the expert work our television and radio news teams do on a daily basis, sometimes in extreme weather and very difficult and testing circumstances.

“Paul Lockyer was the professional’s professional and he would be delighted that this award continues to be named in his honour and is now being sponsored by the ABC to whom he devoted so much of his professional talent, time and energy over many years.

“The Kennedy Awards and The Kennedy Foundation is extremely grateful to have the generous support of the ABC in 2014.”

The ABC’s managing Director, Mark Scott, said the ABC was pleased to be associated with the Awards and, in particular, to be given the opportunity to sponsor the Paul Lockyer Award.

“Regional reporting is the lifeblood of the ABC,” Mr Scott said.

“It is a vital service for many Australians living outside the capital cities, not only in times of emergency. It provides a vital link back to their communities.

“Regional reporting has also provided a valuable training ground for many of our best reporters and camera crews.

“Paul Lockyer represented the very best of that professionalism and commitment to community service. Any reporter would be honoured to receive an award in his name and the ABC is even more honoured to present it.”

The Kennedy Foundation is also pleased to announce that the ABC is also supporting the *Outstanding Finance Reporting Award*, meaning that for the first time the coveted category has attracted a new major sponsor this year.

The Outstanding Finance Reporting Award was won in the inaugural 2012 year by the Daily Telegraph’s Vanda Carson while last year the Sydney Morning Herald’s Adele Ferguson and Chris Vedelago took out the category.

“We thank the ABC for also supporting the keenly sought Outstanding Finance Reporting Award this year on top of their sponsorship of the Paul Lockyer Award,” Mr Ryan said.

The NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in NSW Journalism, named in honour of legendary Sydney crime reporter Les Kennedy who died aged 53 years in 2011, continue to recognise the State’s finest media professionals and those who have put so much back into the industry.

“With the ongoing generous support of all our loyal sponsors and partners like the ABC, the Kennedy Awards continue to remain a prestigious annual event, worthy of the great legacy left by the late Les Kennedy,” Mr Ryan said.

Entries for this year's awards close July 1, for work in the 12 months of the current financial year. The 2014 NRMA Kennedy Awards will be held on August 8th at the Royal Randwick Ballroom, Australian Turf Club.

Recently the Kennedy Awards, with the support of Racing NSW and the pro bono expertise of law firm Kennedys, formed the Kennedy Foundation to administer a benevolent fund for media professionals facing hardship, the children's cancer charity Redkite and the Aboriginal Medical Service.

The presentation of 33 awards will culminate with the announcement of the P&O Cruises NSW Journalist of the Year by the NSW Premier.

Details on entry and tickets to the awards can be found at [www.kennedyawards.com.au](http://www.kennedyawards.com.au)

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