



THE KENNEDY AWARDS

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW MEDIA'S GLAMOROUS NIGHT OF NIGHTS

You don't have to enter the NRMA Kennedy Awards or be a finalist to participate in the New South Wales media's night of nights.

Last year the Tourism and Events Minister described the Kennedy Awards Gala as "a major NSW event in its own right" and the 2014 ceremony is set to go one better.

Tickets for the August 8th ceremony/black-tie ball are just \$190, and include a tax-deductible donation to the recently established *Kennedy Foundation* – an officially registered charity to support news media professionals in hardship, with compassion, in confidence.

Once again the Kennedy Awards will be staged in the magnificent grand ballroom of the Australian Turf Club's Royal Randwick.

The ticket covers all drinks between 7.00pm and 1am, and a wonderful three-course meal prepared by the ATC's world-class chefs – a feast which received rave reviews after the 2013 event, the first to be staged in the brand new ballroom.

This year's Kennedy's "winter ball" will also feature the superb talents of the *Mitchell Anderson Band*, and *The Relics* - winners of the inaugural Kennedy Awards *Media Battle of the Bands*.

The event begins with drinks at 7.00pm, and from 7.30pm Ellen Fanning and Warren Brown will host the presentation of 34 Spirax Trophies to the cream of the state's media talent, including the *P&O Cruises NSW Journalist of the Year*.

The response to this year's call for entries has been the strongest yet, with all of the heaviest hitters in the industry going into battle – representing The Sydney Morning Herald, The Daily Telegraph, The Australian, The Sunday Telegraph, Fairfax Digital, News.com, 2GB, 2UE, 2Day FM, the 7, 9 and TEN Networks, ABC Radio, Four Corners, A Current Affair, Sixty Minutes, Sunday Night, The Guardian, SBS, The Newcastle Herald, The Border Morning Mail, the Illawarra Mercury, the Northern Star and Monaro Post.

Entries are open until 7pm tomorrow, and finalists will be announced July 23rd.

A stellar cast of guest presenters at the awards will include the king of Australian political reporting, the Nine Network's Laurie Oakes and NSW Premier Mike Baird.

Formalities should finish by 9.45pm and then it will be a case of "*let's get the party started*" with the Mitchell Anderson Band to rock the dance floor until the sensational Relics take over until stumps at 1am.

Kennedy Foundation Chairman Peter Ryan said the August ceremony, named after the late, legendary crime reporter Les Kennedy, has become established as the premier event on the NSW media calendar after just three years.

"The Kennedy Awards are loaded with goodwill and strong sentiment, reflecting the strong camaraderie among journalists, cameramen, photographers and artists in Australia's most competitive news market," Mr Ryan said.

"We will be partying as hard as we work, honouring industry legends and celebrating the talents of those following so faithfully in the footsteps of the masters.

"The awards have also evolved into a major annual reunion for those of us who've worked with, and against, each other over many years.

"It's become a super glamorous night, featuring the *who's who* of print, television, radio and online journalism."

Tickets and tables for 10 can be booked via kennedyawards.com.au

Once again the Kennedy Awards would like to acknowledge the very generous support of our major partner – NRMA Motoring + Services, and our other wonderful sponsors: Pelikan Artline – makers of the wonder Spirax trophy – Racing NSW, the Australian Turf Club, the Nine, Seven and TEN networks, the ABC, Coles, Sky News Australia, Sita Waste Management, Echo Entertainment, The Sydney Morning Herald, Sky Sports Radio, Destination NSW, Kennedys Lawyers, Sky Sports Radio, the Association of Tennis Professionals ATP Tour, the Australian Hotels Association, ANZ Stadium, One Big Switch, NRMA Insurance and NSW Health.

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