



THE KENNEDY AWARDS

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 20 April 2015

Sydney Morning Herald again sponsors online news breaking award

The NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in NSW Journalism is delighted to announce that the Sydney Morning Herald has confirmed its sponsorship of the Outstanding Online News Breaking Award for the second consecutive year.

The prestigious award will be presented at this year's gala awards night at the Australian Turf Club's Royal Randwick Ballroom, Royal Randwick, on August 7.

The Sydney Morning Herald's generous support of the coveted award last year - which the Herald won in the first year of the Kennedy Awards – meant the competitive category of Outstanding Online News Breaking had attracted a major sponsor for the first time.

The Herald's Paul Bibby was the inaugural winner of the award in 2012, The Australian newspaper's Ean Higgins was voted standout reporter in 2013, while The Guardian Australia's Oliver Laughland was last year's winner for his powerful reports on the Manus Island riots.

Announcing the Sydney Morning Herald's second-year sponsorship of the award, Kennedy Foundation Chairman, Peter Ryan, thanked the Herald for its continued commitment to the NRMA Kennedy Awards.

"The NRMA Kennedy Awards and the Kennedy Foundation is extremely grateful to again have the generous support of the Sydney Morning Herald in this, the fourth year of the Kennedy Awards for Excellence in NSW Journalism," Mr Ryan said.

"The Outstanding Online News Breaking Award this year will again pay tribute to crack online coverage of breaking news over and above that of rival media organisations throughout NSW.

"The category continues to be a fitting recognition of the skills and enterprise of journalists who continue to break new ground in this revolutionary news medium.

"The Sydney Morning Herald's sponsorship in 2015 is a significant contribution to the Kennedy Awards which continue to recognise excellence in NSW journalism in a wide range of categories."

The Editor in Chief of the Sydney Morning Herald and The Sun Herald, Darren Goodsir, said Fairfax Media was committed to promoting the awards.

"We consider it an honour to support the event in the memory of a friend and colleague," Mr Goodsir said.

"The awards go from strength to strength. We are pleased again to support the recognition of excellence in journalism."

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 honour the state's finest media professionals and those who have put so much back into the industry.

It is fitting that the Sydney Morning Herald, which recruited Les Kennedy in 1996 and published hundreds of his stories over many years, should be a major supporter of the NRMA Kennedy Awards.

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

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

***Registrations for the 2015 Kennedy Awards are now open.** Award entries must be submitted to kennedyawardsjudging@gmail.com in electronic form as PDFs, sound/video files or web links by close of business, Wednesday July 1st, 2015 and feature work published or broadcast between July 1 2014 and June 30 2015.

The finalists in 33 categories will be announced at the Australian Turf Club's Theatre of the Horse on July 22 ahead of the August 7 gala presentation ceremony at Royal Randwick's Grand Ballroom.

Tax deductible entry registration and gala tickets are available for purchase via our website kennedyawards.com.au.

We are also calling for nominations in the Kennedy Award for Lifetime Achievement, to be accompanied by a 400 word tribute to the nominee for consideration by the judging committee. This can be emailed to kennedyawardsjudging@gmail.com.

Media contact: Steve Warnock (0424 407 717)

