



THE KENNEDY AWARDS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Seven News again sponsors Outstanding Investigative Reporting Award

The NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in NSW Journalism is delighted to announce that loyal foundation sponsor Seven News is sponsoring the Outstanding Investigative Reporting Award for the third consecutive year.

The prestigious award will be presented to the state's leading investigative journalist or media team at the gala awards ceremony at the Grand Ballroom, Royal Randwick, on Friday, August 7.

Announcing Seven News' renewed sponsorship of the award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting, Kennedy Foundation chairman Peter Ryan thanked the network for its continued commitment to the awards.

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

"Seven News is one of our loyal foundation sponsors, supporting awards since the inaugural event in 2012 when it sponsored the Outstanding Sport Reporting Award," Mr Ryan said.

The inaugural Outstanding Investigative Reporting Award was won in 2012 by the Sydney Morning Herald's Kate McClymont and in 2013 The Australian's Dan Box came out on top for a series of crack reports about an unpoliced culture of physical and sexual abuse in the Australian military.

Last year the award was won by the ABC-Fairfax team of Adele Ferguson, Deb Masters and Mario Christodoulou for their investigation into the Commonwealth Bank's dodgy financial advice to customers which led to calls for a royal commission and, in the end, led to the bank offering to compensate victims.

The Outstanding Investigative Reporting Award recognises standout “dirt digging” from media professionals around NSW, investigations which lift the lid on corruption, malpractices, scams and scandals – the type of probes which have the potential to force changes in laws and ring bells for royal commissions.

As Chris Willis, Seven’s Sydney Director of News, said in 2013 when presenting the award to The Australian’s Dan Box: “Investigation is the backbone of what we do ...we dig, we irritate, we investigate, we interrogate – then we publish.”

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

The awards are supported by the Kennedy Foundation, a registered charity to administer a benevolent fund for media professionals facing hardship as well as to charitable organisations like leading Australian Clinical Trials Group, ANZUP, and its flagship event the Below the Belt Pedalthon.

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

***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 (0428 968 499)