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MEDIA RELEASE

Les Kennedy Award for Outstanding Crime Reporting honoured with new sponsor

The Les Kennedy Award for Outstanding Crime Reporting – a key category introduced seven years ago at the inaugural awards – is being honoured with sponsorship from leading Sydney business, Stonemasons and Landscapers.

Stonemasons and Landscapers, a 48-year-old western Sydney business, becomes the inaugural sponsor of a hotly contested award which attracts quality entries every year from Australia's finest crime reporters.

The Outstanding Crime Reporting Award is fittingly named after Les Kennedy who forged a career through the 1980s and beyond on the Sydney Daily Telegraph and Sydney Morning Herald as a crack old-style shoe-leather crime reporter.

Les was widely trusted and respected by police and a wealth of other contacts for honesty, accuracy and dedication to digging out the truth before his untimely death in 2011 from cancer, aged just 53 years.

He was also a respected author, co-writing the best-seller *Sins of the Father*, an epic tome about the family of mass murderer Ivan Milat.

Announcing Stonemasons and Landscapers' historic partnership with the Kennedy Foundation and the NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism, foundation chairman Simon Dulhunty welcomed the generous support of the established business.

"Since 2012 when the first awards were hatched in a pub in Sydney to honour Les' life, the Kennedy Foundation has been seeking an inaugural sponsor to support this coveted category which recognises the skills of journalists working in one of the profession's oldest fields," Mr Dulhunty said.

"The foundation is delighted and proud to announce the ***Stonemasons and Landscapers Les Kennedy Award for Outstanding Crime Reporting***, a category which will again recognise the most outstanding coverage of crime by media professionals in the past 12 months.

"Only outstanding journalists take out this coveted award and we again expect a high quality raft of entries in this, the seventh year of the Kennedy Awards."

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Mr Joe Moussa, National Operations Manager of Stonemasons and Landscapers (since 1970) said the family business was proud to be a partner to the Kennedy Foundation which helps support media professionals facing hardship.

“By sponsoring the Les Kennedy Award for Outstanding Crime Reporting we can help provide support not only to the foundation but also the Kennedy Awards,” Mr Moussa said.

“Crime dominates the news every day and the award recognises the skills, expertise and resourcefulness of journalists covering these daily events and our business welcomes the opportunity to support the category.”

The NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism continue to recognise the 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 other charitable organisations.

The seventh annual NRMA Kennedy Awards will be held at the Australian Turf Club’s grand ballroom, Royal Randwick, on Friday, August 10. The presentation of 34 Spirax trophies will culminate with the announcement of the winner of the 2018 *Kennedy Prize for Australian Journalist of the Year*.

Our sponsors

The trustees of the Kennedy Foundation deeply appreciate the continued support of our generous sponsors - NRMA, Stonemasons and Landscapers, ACCO Brands, Twitter, AGL, Seven News, Nine News, A Current Affair, Vodafone, Fairfax Media, Hillbrick Bicycles, ANZ Stadium, Network Ten, Godfrey Wines, The Sydney Morning Herald, Salty Dingo, Balter Beer, City of Parramatta, Racing NSW, NRMA Insurance, The Australian Turf Club, Paradigm Resources, Hunter Burton Capital, Briscoe Hotels Group.

About Stonemasons and Landscapers

George Moussa started Stonemasons and Landscapers 48 years ago in 1970. George has been a stonemason and landscaper from the age of 16 years. Over the years, his sons have been groomed for their roles in key positions in the business.

Stonemasons & Landscapers is a strong family business built on pride and reputation and over time, the ever increasing expertise within the company and broadening project experience has significantly grown the business.

Stonemasons & Landscapers has progressed from small residential jobs to major projects across NSW in the public works, private build corp. and local council sectors.

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