

2016 NRMA KENNEDY AWARDS UNRIVALLED FOR QUALITY AND QUANTITY

July 28, 2016

JUDGES have heaped praise on the quality of entrants in the 5th Annual NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

Nominees from a record field of 524 entries have been announced for all 33 competitive categories ahead of the August 12 gala presentation ceremony and winter ball at Royal Randwick.

New Kennedy Foundation chairman Mr Simon Dulhunty said the Kennedy Awards has cemented its position as a prestigious event for celebrating the very best of Australian journalism.

“This event has grown way beyond a tribute to one person, it’s now something very special and significant for the state and country’s media and their families,” Mr Dulhunty said.

“The Kennedy Awards are unique ... they celebrate the best of people making the best of journalism ... they acknowledge the past giants who paved the way on the same night where current greats take their turn in the spotlight.”

Mr Dulhunty has been an inaugural trustee of the Kennedy Foundation. As a former editor of Les Kennedy at The Sun-Herald, he has played a unique role in helping to build the charity and awards named in tribute to one of the greats of newspaper reporting.

“I am honoured to have been a part of the Les Kennedy story, as a colleague and editor, as a friend of his wide family, as a trustee of the Kennedy Foundation and now as chairman of a charity that runs year long giving back to journalists.”

Mr Dulhunty thanked his predecessor Mr Peter Kogoy for his fundraising efforts and the integral part he played in establishing the Les Kennedy Scholarship for indigenous journalism students at the University of Technology Sydney.

“Peter Kogoy captures the spirit of the Kennedy Foundation, mentoring young journalists and supporting those who have fallen on tough times,” he said.

Mr Dulhunty said the judges were highly impressed with the caliber of entries in the 2016 Awards.

“In a massive news year the standard of submissions from all entrants is exceptional,” Mr Dulhunty said.

“From investigative journalism to news breaking, great feature writing and incredible pictorial entries, the cream of Australian journalism is rising to the top for a crack at the coveted Spirax Trophy, designed by our great friends at Pelikan Artline.

“The NRMA Kennedy Awards and the Kennedy Foundation recognize that in a highly challenging and diverse media environment exceptional journalism will always prevail.

“The judges found that this certainly has been the case in 2016.”

Foundation sponsors Racing NSW and the Australian Turf Club hosted the finalists’ announcement tonight at Royal Randwick – the setting for the 5th Annual Kennedy Awards on Friday, August 12.

The awards are always staged on or close to the anniversary of Les Kennedy’s death from cancer in 2011.

Tickets for the August 12 ceremony/black-tie ball are just \$190, and include a tax-deductible donation to the Kennedy Foundation, and can be purchased at <http://www.kennedyawards.com.au>

The ticket covers all drinks between 7.00pm and 2am, and a superb three-course meal prepared by the ATC’s world-class chefs.

This year’s Kennedy’s “winter ball” will also feature the superb talents of The Voice star Prinnie Stevens, Jazz duo Fecton and Brisbane outfit Bamford and Cook.

The event begins with drinks at 7.00pm and from 8pm formalities begin for the presentation of 34 Spirax Trophies to the cream of Australia’s media talent, including the coveted Coca-Cola Journalist of the Year, the richest journalism prize in Australian journalism.

After the awards’ presentations, guests will be invited to join the “after party” at Royal Randwick’s The Stables until 2am.

We hope you can join us - and congratulations again to all our nominees.

The Kennedy Foundation would like to thank all our wonderful sponsors NRMA Motoring and Services, Coca-Cola Amatil, Coca-Cola South Pacific, Pelikan Artline, Nine Network Australia, 9 News, A Current Affair, The Australian Turf Club, ANZ Stadium, NRMA Insurance, the Seven Network, Racing NSW, The Sydney Morning Herald, City of Parramatta, Clubs NSW, Paradigm Resources, One Big Switch, Suez Australia, Hillbrick Bicycles, P&O Cruises and Salty Dingo.

2016 NRMA Kennedy Awards' Finalists

Paul Lockyer Award for Outstanding Regional Broadcast Reporting – Elysse Morgan (ABC TV); Joanna Woodburn (ABC TV); Giselle Wakatama (ABC)

Chris Watson Award for Outstanding Regional Newspaper Reporting – Breanna Chillingworth (Northern Daily Leader); Andrew Pearson (Illawarra Mercury); Donna Page and Michelle Harris (Newcastle Herald)

Les Kennedy Award for Outstanding Crime Reporting – Dan Box (The Australian); Janet Fife-Yeomans (Daily Telegraph); Allison Langdon and Rebecca Le Tourneau (60 Minutes)

Rod Allen Award for Racing Writer of the Year – Ray Thomas (Daily Telegraph); Chris Roots (Sydney Morning Herald); Felicity Nethery (WIN TV Central West)

Outstanding Turf Reporting – Ray Thomas (Daily Telegraph); Andrew Webster (Sydney Morning Herald); Matt Kelly (G1X)

Sean Flannery Award for Outstanding Radio Reporting – Giselle Wakatama (ABC); Stephanie Borys (2GB); Matthew Woolfrey (2GB)

Outstanding Radio Current Affairs Reporting and Audio Blog – Dan Box (The Australian); Ellen Fanning (ABC); Mandie Sami (ABC)

Outstanding Online Video – Bill Code (BBC Online); Sylvia Liber (Illawarra Mercury); Nick Walker and Tony Walters (Sydney Morning Herald)

Peter Frilingos Award for Outstanding Sports Reporting – Nick Tabakoff (Daily Telegraph); Kate McClymont (Sydney Morning Herald); Dan Nolan (A Current Affair)

Outstanding Travel Writing – Garry Maddox (Sydney Morning Herald); Ian Lloyd Neubauer (Australian Road Rider); Joe Aston (Australian Financial Review)

John Newfong Award for Outstanding Indigenous Affairs Reporting – Dan Box (The Australian); Ben Hills (SBS); Natasha Robinson (ABC)

2016 Young Journalist of the Year – Michael McGowan (Newcastle Herald); Eryk Bagshaw (Sydney Morning Herald); Carrie Felner (Newcastle Herald)

Harry Potter Award for Outstanding Television News Reporting – Marc Burrows (Nine News); Robert Ovadia and Chris Maher (7 News); Rob Scott (7 News)

Outstanding Television Current Affairs Reporting (long form, over 30 minutes) – Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Clay Hichens, Mario Christodoulou (Four Corners ABC TV); Helen Grasswill (ABC TV); Ivan O'Mahoney (ABC TV)

Outstanding Television Current Affairs Reporting (short form, under 30 minutes) – Steve Pennells, Lisa Ryan, Alex Garipoli (Sunday Night); Rebecca Le Tourneau, Allison Langdon (60 Minutes); Yvonne Sampson, Prue Hamil (Footy Show)

Outstanding Finance Reporting - Anthony Klan, Greg Bearup (The Australian); Fairfax/Four Corners; Mandie Sami (ABC Radio PM)

Outstanding Court Reporting – Candace Sutton (Daily Mail); Bryan Seymour (7 News); Shannon Tonkin and Cydonee Mardon (Illawarra Mercury)

Outstanding Consumer Affairs Reporting – Kylar Loussikian (The Australian); Sarah Dingle, Joel Tozer, Jaya Balendra (Four Corners ABC TV); Sophie Scott, Rebecca Armitage (7.30 Report ABC TV)

Peter Ruehl Award for Outstanding Columnist – James Jeffrey (The Australian); Miranda Devine (Daily Telegraph); Jacqueline Maley (Sydney Morning Herald)

Outstanding Online News Breaking – Rachel Olding (Sydney Morning Herald); James Thomas (ABC TV); Ava Benny Morrison, Lisa Visentin, Nick Ralston (Sydney Morning Herald)

Outstanding Reporting on the Environment - Peter Hannam (Sydney Morning Herald); Donna Page and Michelle Harris (Newcastle Herald); Connor Duffy (7.30 Report ABC TV)

2016 Scoop of the Year – Nick Tabakoff (Daily Telegraph); Dan Nolan (A Current Affair); Michael Usher and Laura Sparkes (60 Minutes)

2016 Vince O'Farrell Award: Outstanding Illustration - Eric Lobbecke (The Australian); Cathie Wilcox (Sydney Morning Herald); John Shakespeare (Sydney Morning Herald)

Outstanding Investigative Reporting – Dan Box (The Australian); Ivan O'Mahoney, Sarah Ferguson (ABC TV); Adele Ferguson, Klaus Toft, Mario Christodoulou (Fairfax/ABC TV)

2016 Jim Oram Award: *Outstanding Features Writing* – Trent Dalton (The Australian); Paul Maley (The Australian); Tom Allard (Sydney Morning Herald)

Outstanding Political Reporting – Andrew Clennell (Daily Telegraph); David Spears (SKY News); Brigid Glanville (ABC News)

2016 Coca-Cola Journalist of the Year - Nick Tabakoff (Daily Telegraph); Dan Box (The Australian); Adele Ferguson (Fairfax/Four Corners)

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