



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Wednesday, 28 June 2017*

### **Nine News again sponsors two major television awards**

**JUST 3 DAYS LEFT before entries close cob July 1**

Nine News is again sponsoring two prestigious television awards at the 6<sup>th</sup> NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism - the Outstanding Television News Camera Coverage Award and a new Outstanding Television Current Affairs category recognising excellence in nightly reports.

Nine News is sponsoring the Gary Ticehurst Award for Outstanding Television News Camera Coverage for the fourth consecutive year and has also become the inaugural sponsor of a new 2017 current affairs category, Outstanding Current Affairs Reporting in a nightly program.

The winners of the two coveted awards will be announced at the glittering August 11 gala event at the Australian Turf Club's Royal Randwick Ballroom, Royal Randwick.

Announcing Nine News' sponsorship of the two awards, Kennedy Foundation Chairman Mr Simon Dulhunty said the foundation, which stages the annual Kennedy Awards, welcomed Nine's continued support in this, the sixth year of the NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

"Nine News has been a loyal and generous sponsor of the Kennedy Awards since the inaugural awards in 2012 and in 2014 became the first sponsor of the Gary Ticehurst Award for Outstanding Television News Camera Coverage," Mr Dulhunty said.

"Nine also supported one of the prestigious television current affairs categories last year and this year is supporting the new category, Outstanding Television Current Affairs Reporting in a nightly show.

"Nine's sponsorship of both awards in 2017 is a significant contribution to the Kennedy Awards which continue to recognise excellence in journalism in a wide range of categories."

Mr Dulhunty said the Gary Ticehurst Award this year would again acknowledge excellence in television news camera coverage and recognise a crack entry that stands out over and above that of rival networks.

“Our television news cameramen and crews doing an outstanding job day in, day out, more often than not in extremely unwelcome and intimidating situations,” Mr Dulhunty said.

The Gary Ticehurst Award honours the late veteran ABC helicopter pilot Gary Ticehurst who was killed in a helicopter crash at Lake Eyre in 2011. Nine News’ sponsorship in 2014 meant that for the first time the Outstanding Television News Camera Coverage category had attracted a major sponsor.

Simon Hobbs, Nine’s Director of News, Sydney, praised the work done by news cameramen.

“Some of the most accomplished and experienced journalists in our newsrooms are our news cameramen,” Mr Hobbs said.

“Day after day, they put themselves on the front lines, working around the clock, driving hundreds of kilometres and lugging a mountain of gear, to get the story. We wouldn’t be half the news organisation we are without them”.

The NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism, named in honour of legendary Sydney crime reporter Les Kennedy who died aged 53 years in 2011, remain committed to recognising our 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 presentation of 33 awards this year will culminate with the announcement of the *Coca Cola Journalist of the Year*.

**NB:** Entries are still open for the 2017 NRMA Kennedy Awards, including the \$25,000 prize for the *Coca Cola Australian Journalist of the Year*. Entries for work in the current financial year must be submitted to [kennedyawardsjudging@gmail.com](mailto:kennedyawardsjudging@gmail.com) by close of business July 1.

Entry is \$40 for every **unrelated** item of work and \$40 for a series of **related** stories (maximum five). The finalists in all 33 competitive categories will be announced on Wednesday, July 26. Gala ticket purchases for the August 11 awards can be completed via our home page at [www.kennedyawards.com.au](http://www.kennedyawards.com.au)

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