



Media Release

2020 NRMA KENNEDY AWARDS' NOMINEES SORTED FROM BIG FIELD

More than 100 individual nominees from a near-record field of entries have been chosen for all competitive categories for the 2020 NRMA Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

The finalists in those categories – including the \$25,000 TPG Telecom Kennedy Prize for Journalist of the Year and the coveted pictorial categories - were announced tonight at a function at Royal Randwick ahead of the 2020 Kennedy Awards.

Chosen in a fiercely competitive news year, the finalists have been selected from major metropolitan newsrooms, international journalists and entrants from regional media throughout Australia.

The prestigious 2020 **TPG Telecom** Kennedy Prize for Journalist of the Year, the richest prize in Australian journalism, will be fought out by finalists from the Sydney Morning Herald, The Daily Telegraph and 60 Minutes/The Age.

The \$5000 2020 Young Journalist of the Year - supported by **Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas** - features finalists from A Current Affair, The Daily Mail Australia and The Sydney Morning Herald.

The Chris Watson Award for Outstanding Regional Newspaper Reporting, sponsored by **AGL**, will be decided between journalists from the Northern Daily Leader, Western Australia's Mandurah Mail and the Tumut and Adelong Times and Tumbarumba Times, after a year in which regional newspaper staff throughout Australia have worked under extreme difficulties and pressures.

The newly-named Tom Krause Outstanding Foreign Correspondent Award – sponsored by the **ABC** and honouring the late, great journalist and senior Kennedy Awards' judge who passed away earlier this year – attracted an impressive field of entries whittled-down to ABC/BBC, Seven Network and ABC Syria.

Please find attached the full list of 2019 finalists for the 9th Annual Kennedy Awards.

All finalists were chosen after weeks of close scrutiny by experienced judges and the top three in each of the print, electronic and pictorial categories revealed at tonight's function.

Kennedy Foundation chairman and judge Rocco Fazzari said the judges were highly impressed with the calibre of entries.

"In a massive news year, the standard of submissions is exceptional in every category," Mr Fazzari said.

"In some categories it took judges days to finally sort out finalists from big fields, some of which had near-record entries.

"From investigative journalism to news breaking, superb feature writing, incredible pictorial entries and wonderful artwork, a class field has emerged to contest the coveted Spirax trophies."

Please note deferment of the planned August 7 2020 gala night at Royal Randwick:

Due to recent political decisions over the management of the COVID-19 pandemic the 2020 Kennedy Awards for Excellence in Journalism will not be held on August 7th, as originally planned.

A restriction on the number of attendees at corporate events, announced in New South Wales on July 17th, would prevent the Kennedy Awards gala from accommodating its usual number of guests.

In the interests of highlighting the nominees in the 2020 awards, and maximising value for our generous sponsors, the Kennedy Foundation will extend the lead time to this year's awards until the social distancing rules are eased.

We are aiming to stage the awards at Royal Randwick in the spring, and will confirm the gala date at the earliest opportunity (a full statement is on the Kennedy Awards website).

The hosts for the finalists' announcement function tonight was the Australian Turf Club in the lead up to the 2020 Kennedy Awards.

Our sponsors

The trustees of the Kennedy Foundation deeply appreciate the continued support of our generous sponsors - NRMA, ACCO Brands, TPG Telecom, Artline, Stabilo, A Current Affair, 9 News, Judith Neilson Institute for

Journalism and Ideas, the ABC, Tata Consultancy Services, The Daily Telegraph, The Sunday Telegraph, Twitter, The Sydney Morning Herald, 10 New First, Sky News, AGL, Google, 7 News, Castle Rock Global Capital, Hillbrick Bicycles, Australian Turf Club, Salty Dingo, Sally Prosser Professional Voice Coach, RM Global Asia Pacific and CDTL Corporate Accountants.

The NRMA Kennedy Awards are staged by the *Kennedy Foundation*, a registered charity that provides financial and other support to news media professionals in hardship while promoting excellence in journalism.

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