



## **Media Release**

### **Nine continues to strongly support the NRMA Kennedy Awards**

Wednesday, 13 May 2020

**IN** a news year dominated by coverage of natural disasters and the crippling world health crisis stretching Australia's media to the limit, *9News* and *A Current Affair* continue to support quality journalism through the 2020 NRMA Kennedy Awards.

The annual Kennedy Awards acknowledge excellence in journalism and Nine has re-affirmed its commitment this year, supporting three major Kennedy television awards.

*9News* is again sponsoring the Gary Ticehurst Award for Outstanding TV News Camera Coverage as well as the Mike Willesee Award for Outstanding Nightly Current Affairs.

Nine's *A Current Affair* will support another coveted Kennedy award, Outstanding Television (long form) Current Affairs.

"Nine's partnership with the Kennedy Awards runs deep and in 2020 we're proud to continue that support," Alexander Needs, Nine's Director of Partnerships and Strategy – News & Current Affairs, said.

"While 2020 has thrown us challenges no one could have foreseen, the ability of our journalists, producers, crews and production teams to adapt quickly and produce outstanding, powerful and important content has been incredible to witness.

"The awards this year – in whatever form they take – will showcase the vital work our media has produced under immense pressure. *9News* and *A Current Affair* are proud to support that work."

Nine's trailblazers and news icons have featured prominently in one of the gala night's most coveted and loved awards, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Last year retired 9News presenter, the legendary Brian Henderson, was recognised with the Lifetime Achievement Award before a packed house which gave him a standing and prolonged ovation.

Hendo, who retired in 2002, said he was “honoured and flattered” to receive the award, saying that after 47 years in a job he loved “to be acknowledged in this way tops it all off”.

And in 2018 trail-blazing Australian journalist Jana Wendt was recognised with the Lifetime Achievement Award before about 600 adoring guests.

Kennedy Foundation chairman Mr Rocco Fazzari today praised Nine for its support and loyalty to the NRMA Kennedy Awards.

“Nine has been a loyal supporter of the Kennedy Awards since the inaugural event in 2012 and its sponsorship of four major categories this year is a significant contribution and boosts the awards’ aim of recognising excellence in journalism,” Mr Fazzari said.

“In a year dominated by catastrophic bushfires and the global pandemic which has hit business organisations and industry particularly hard, Nine has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting quality journalism in Australia through partnering the Kennedy Awards.”

Now in our 9th year, the NRMA Kennedy Awards are scheduled to be staged August 7 however, if necessary, a later date will be announced for the annual gala presentation at Royal Randwick depending on the timetable for lifting restrictions on social distancing.

### **Our sponsors**

The trustees of the Kennedy Foundation deeply appreciate the support of our generous sponsors - NRMA, ACCO Brands, Artline, Stabilo, A Current Affair, Nine News, Judith Neilson Institute for Journalism and Ideas, Tata Consultancy Services, The Daily Telegraph, The Sunday Telegraph, Twitter, Sydney Morning Herald, Vodafone, 10 News, Sky News, AGL, Google, Watpac, Seven News, Castle Rock Global Capital, Hillbrick Bicycles, Australian Turf Club, Racing NSW, Salty Dingo, Godfrey Wines, Crown Hotel, RM Global Asia Pacific, Virgin Airlines, Fraser Suites, Briscoe Hotel Group, CDTL Corporate Accountants.

**For all inquiries relating to the awards and sponsorship please contact: Steve Warnock: (0424 407 717)**