

# Ossie Awards winners 2017

Best text-based story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student – 750 words or less (\$200 prize)

*This category is for a text-based story – published or publishable in print or online – of no more than 750 words. Submitted stories can be hard or soft news. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Michelle Etheridge, News Corp Australia

Winner: Anna Freeland, University of Technology Sydney

Anna Freeland's piece discussed a health issue having an impact on many women in the Illawarra area. Such was the impact of the problem that Freeland's work was picked up by the local media after she did the groundwork digging up the story. Her work was balanced, concise and informative and also discussed the issue from the point of view of a local person affected.

Best text-based story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student – over 750 words (\$200 prize)

*This category is for a text-based story – published or publishable in print or online – of more than 750 words. Submitted stories can be hard or soft news or features. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Michael Bachelard, The Age

Highly Commended: Jessica Cortis, Western Sydney University, 'Forget me not'

Highly Commended: Christiane Barro, Monash University, "'It's safer for everyone": heroin addicts plead for a safe injecting room'

Winner: Lucy Dean, University of Wollongong, 'Living in the Twilight Zone'

Lucy Dean's story on aged care, 'Living in the Twilight Zone', is a finely balanced, nuanced, beautifully written piece of journalism that focuses on the human beings involved in this very human issue, but also seamlessly weaves in facts and figures demonstrating the scale of the economic and political task. Dot Chadwick is a beautiful case study. Her story is told with poignancy and restraint, and is complemented by others involved in the industry: nurses, managers, educators, other residents.

## Best audio story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student – 2 minutes or less (\$200 prize)

*This category is for an audio story – which may have been broadcast or published online – of no more than 2 minutes duration. Submitted stories can be hard or soft news. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Angus Randall, ABC

### Winner: David Barnott-Clement, University of Wollongong, ‘A change of heart’

This piece expertly uses background sounds and silence to create an immediate sense of tension. Doug is engaging talent, and the piece lets him speak about his experience with minimal interference. There's a bigger story to be told here, but David is wise to capture a small part of Doug's experience to suit the two-minute time frame.

## Best audio story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student – over 2 minutes (\$200 prize)

*This category is for an audio story – which may have been broadcast or published online – of more than 2 minutes duration. This can include audio documentary, current affairs and news. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Annie Hastwell, The Wire

### Highly Commended: Wendy John, University of Technology Sydney, ‘Doomsday’

This polished and professionally produced piece deserves an Honourable Mention on top of the accolades it has already received. Using the very appealing theme of checking out Doomsday predictions, and incorporating zombies, Wendy takes the listener on a fact-packed and fascinating roller-coaster ride to an understanding of what a pandemic might look like and just how likely it is to happen. Sound-rich, full of personality and well paced.

### Winner: Georgia Hing, University of Technology Sydney, ‘Swipe right for disability’

This piece gently explores the very topical issue of Tinder and how it is changing how we conduct relationships, and moves the discussion to how dating apps affect the lives of those with disabilities. It was good radio with a personal and engaging script, and a sense of the reporter ‘owning’ and telling us the story. The disarmingly frank interviews with two disabled women were an intimate glimpse into their lives. The piece was nicely balanced with the expert voice at either end, and was a more nuanced take on a topic which is often framed as a problem. As a student and with limited resources Georgia has taken an idea and turned it into a simple but engaging piece of radio.

Best video story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student – 2 minutes or less (\$200 prize)

*This category is for a video story – which may have been broadcast or published online – of no more than 2 minutes duration. Submitted stories can be hard or soft news. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Loukas Founten, ABC

Highly Commended: Eliza Beck, RMIT University, 'OBikes'

This story was topical and well researched. The reporter provided a global perspective on a local issue and used her nous to track down oBike's headquarters and a company spokesman to provide balance to the story. Nicely shot and edited together.

Winner: Chloe Strahan, Monash University, 'Nepal, home to the world's first blind women's cricket team'

This story was well shot, researched and told. The reporter had the added difficulty of having to translate both her questions and the answers to them. It was clear that she took many hours to film, research and edit the story, which was informative, interesting and charming.

Best video story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student – over 2 minutes (\$200 prize)

*This category is for a video story – which may have been broadcast or published online – of more than 2 minutes duration. It can include documentary, current affairs and news. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Simon Royal, ABC

Highly Commended: Tim Purdie, RMIT University, 'Heathcote parents cooking class'

Reporterless pieces are the most challenging of TV story-telling forms. They are time consuming and absolutely dependent upon the quality of pictures and the thoroughness of the interviews. This sweet, engaging piece weaves a lovely personal story of hope and change. It is of great credit to the journalist responsible.

Highly Commended: Alexander Lewis, University of Technology Sydney, 'Edible insects create buzz in Sydney'

An extremely polished and engagingly told story. Good talent, good pictures and a good script.

Winner: Stephanie Chen, Monash University, 'Funding justice for domestic violence sufferers'

This story had all the elements of a well-made long format story, without looking and feeling like a long news story: personal experience, interesting pictures and a strong narrative structure. Domestic violence is not a subject matter that naturally generates pictures, and too often generates clichéd 're-enactments'. The journalist managed to create thoughtful, appropriate and original vision. I was particularly impressed by that, and it is the principle reason in my view that makes this entry the winner in an extraordinarily strong field. The story combines elements of reporterless and voice-over scripting. Normally this wouldn't work comfortably, but I think in this instance it comes off. Well done.

Best innovation in journalism (Individual or Group, Undergraduate or Postgraduate)

*This category is open to both individual and group entries, and should reflect effective and innovative use of the online medium to tell a hard news story, soft news story or piece of longer-form journalism. It can incorporate web publishing and social media. There is no set word or time limit, but the submitted work should reflect reporting on a specific topic over no more than one semester.*

Judge: Myriam Robin, Fairfax

Highly Commended: Monash digital production team, 'Bridging the Gender Gap', Monash University

As a highly technical work of digital story-telling with many moving parts, this entry was seamlessly presented.

Winner: Fact Check Your Mother, RMIT University

This entry deserves the award for a clever mix of old and new: not only did students display good multimedia journalism skills through the assignment, but each found an enduring, vivid story to cover. It was a joy to read through the various assignments - each student's enthusiasm for their subject was obvious to see.

## Dr Charles Stuart Prize for Best Publication (Individual or Group, Undergraduate or Postgraduate)

*This category is open to both individual and group entries, and to publications in any medium – print, broadcast or online. It is open to both one-off publications and regularly published or broadcast work. Where regular editions or broadcasts are included, no more than three editions should be submitted for judging.*

Judge: Chris Bartlett, News Corp Australia

### Highly Commended: Change Makers, University of Queensland

This publication tackled an important issue in an ambitious way. Video production values were first class.

### Highly Commended: The Citizen, University of Melbourne.

### Winner: Mojo News, Monash University

A very tough decision. Mojo News had a good mix of hard news and features, and was well written and well presented. The website was simple, easy to navigate and clean (and it works well on mobile - important for audiences today.) The standard of all entries was very high, and they should all be commended.

## Dart Centre Asia-Pacific prize (Individual, Undergraduate or Postgraduate, Any Medium) (\$200 prize)

*The Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma – Asia Pacific award is for reporting on the impact of violence, crime, disaster and other traumatic events on individuals, families and communities. Entries should focus on the experience of victims and survivors as well as contribute to public understanding of trauma-related issues. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Cait McMahon, Dart Centre Asia-Pacific

Honourable Mention: Morgane Zouabi, University of Technology Sydney

Honourable Mention: Aaron Bunch, Edith Cowan University

Highly Commended: Gerard Escaich Folch, Monash University

Winner: Julie Cleaver and Kendall Hutt, AUT University

Cleaver and Hutt's victim-focused story of climate change in Fiji through the eyes of one woman and her family's tragedy was sensitive, well researched and of a high professional standard. The story was informative, and introduced a difficult-to-report climate change story in a very personal yet non gratuitous way. The modality of hearing the survivor's voice without interference from the journalist resulted in a well-produced and intelligently edited piece. Congratulations.

Best photojournalism by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student (\$200 prize)

*This category is for still photography where it is used to support text-based reporting or where the images are the primary means of storytelling. Entries should be accompanied by any text incorporated in the published or submitted work – this text will not form part of the judging process, but will be used to provide guidance and context for judges. Video can not be submitted for judging in this category. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Rob McCall, freelance

Winner: Caitlin Henderson, Monash University, 'Fire and iron: inside a blacksmiths forge '

Caitlin was able to capture the intense conditions of the forge as well as the character of the blacksmith. Her use of available light helped her document her subject without changing the dynamic of the environment.

## Investigative journalism by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student (Individual, Any Medium) (\$200 prize)

*This category is open to investigative reporting in any medium. It should reflect implementation of principles and techniques of investigative journalism rather than simply being a longer piece of journalism. There is no specific word or time limit. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Iskhandar Razak, ABC

### Winner: Rochelle Kirkham and Katie Coulthard, RMIT University, 'On The Frontline'

A well written, well presented, multifaceted piece of reporting, that required various forms of research and investigation over several months in multiple locations. This story identified and articulated an under-reported problem, but went beyond that, to explore answers and arguments that most people would ask while reading it. In essence it took people on a journey. Two aspects made this report stand-out in a very strong field. The first was the level of research, and dedication to fully explore the issue. There were multiple interviews from people across the state of Victoria that gave this story a depth of understanding, coupled with solid historical research and data. The second was way this story was written and presented. Powerful images, recorded interviews, pull-quotes and music, made the people involved in this story come to life and hence the issue.

## Investigative journalism (all media) – (Group, Undergraduate or Postgraduate)

*This category is open to investigative reporting in any medium, produced by a team of students. It should reflect implementation of principles and techniques of investigative journalism rather than simply being a longer piece of journalism. There is no specific word or time limit, but it should reflect reporting on one topic over no more than one semester.*

Judge: David Blackall

### Winner: Will Zwar and Nadia Dimattina, Monash University, 'The Carbon Equation: Where your offset dollar really goes'

This was an internationally relevant story, with local relevance too, and was well laid out on its site, with photographs, graphics, clean design, and social media sharing abilities at the bottom of the page. Journalists Will Zwar and Nadia Dimattina said that all sources were made aware of their contribution to the story, and this is an important ethical imperative for investigative journalism, so that it may continue to enjoy a trusting relationship with the community it both serves and relies upon for leaks. This story is one that is not widely covered, yet a great deal of the population travels overseas, most often without ever questioning where the "offset dollar really goes". There are also corruption and negative aspects to this story and the team managed to touch on that with a brief look at "Reducing

Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in central Kalimantan, Indonesia", which has displaced many indigenous people.

### Mindframe (Individual, Any Medium, Undergraduate) (\$200 prize)

*The Mindframe category is for a story by an undergraduate student that covers a mental health or suicide related issue responsibly, accurately and sensitively and also demonstrate an understanding of the potential to increase community awareness, decrease stigma, promote hope and encourage people to seek help. It is an individual category, so entries should be the work of one or two students only.*

Judges: The Mindframe Team, Hunter Institute of Mental Health

Judges' comments: This year all the entries received were from undergraduate students. Entries covered a variety of angles, from the cultural factors affecting mental wellbeing in the young Vietnamese community to the stigma of depression among older generations. All entries were of journalistic value and included elements of *Mindframe's* guidelines, however, two of them were particularly remarkable.

### Highly Commended: Tiffany Kirkwood, Curtin University, 'All-abilities rugby hits Perth'

Tiffany provided a refreshing take on mental illness. Her article focused on a rugby team created for people with disabilities, establishing the positive impact that being part of the team is likely to have on the physical and emotional wellbeing of its members.

### Winner: Breeanna Tirant, Swinburne University, 'Letting the bereaved speak'

Breeanna provided an insight into a suicide bereavement support group called The Compassionate Friends Victoria. The group was formed by bereaved parents in 1978 and it offers support to those who have lost someone to suicide. Breeanna's article contains a strong message of hope, stays away from stereotypes or stigmatising views and uses language and images in a way that is consistent with *Mindframe's* guidelines. She also provides help-seeking information. It's remarkable that, even though the article deals with the sensitive issue of suicide, Breeanna, in line with best practice, avoids mentioning the method or location where any of the suicides took place.

### John Newfong Prize for Reporting on Indigenous Affairs - (Individual, Undergraduate or Postgraduate, Any Medium) (\$200 prize).

*The John Newfong award is named in honour of the first Aboriginal person to be employed in mainstream print media in Australia, at The Australian. Entries should focus on Indigenous issues, as well*

*as contribute to public understanding of Indigenous issues. This is an individual category, so entries must be the work of one or two students only.*

Judge: Chris Graham, New Matilda

### Highly Commended – Molly Schmidt and Jonathon Daly, Curtin University, ‘Beelias wetlands were our church’

A really solid piece of journalism. Molly and Jonathon did a LOT of background research for this piece, and took in a lot of themes. They packaged it very well – it’s a very substantial piece of journalism. Feature writing is not easy – Molly and Jonathon pulled it off, and showed an understanding of the importance of Aboriginal voices in Aboriginal stories.

### Winner: Miles Herbert, University of Technology Sydney, ‘Systemic racism a threat to indigenous health’

Racism in health is not a particularly ‘sexy’ or well understood area of Indigenous reporting. The strength of Miles piece is that he didn’t just take a series of very strong quotes about a woman’s terrible experience with a health service - he recognised that there were broader, more systemic issues at play. He expanded the story to take in the death of Ms Dhu, which has been a major issue in the news media, and then he expanded it even further to touch on the ‘politics’ of the issue – citizenship. Miles showed a real maturity and depth of understanding about Aboriginal reporting that I think John Newfong would appreciate.

### The Australian Press Council Undergraduate Prize for an essay on the topic of media ethics (\$200 prize)

*Submissions must be in the form of an essay rather than a piece of journalism. The essay must relate to the topic of journalism ethics, and should present a case or argument, using supporting examples where appropriate. It must be fully referenced, using standard academic referencing techniques and styles. Essays can be submitted in text or audio form. Where the essay is submitted as audio, it should be accompanied by a complete reference list in a Word document or pdf. Maximum length: text 3000 words or audio 15 minutes.*

No entries received in 2017

## The Australian Press Council Postgraduate Prize for an essay on the topic of media ethics (\$200 prize)

*Submissions must be in the form of an essay rather than a piece of journalism. The essay must relate to the topic of journalism ethics, and should present a case or argument, using supporting examples where appropriate. It must be fully referenced, using standard academic referencing techniques and styles. Essays can be submitted in text or audio form. Where the essay is submitted as audio, it should be accompanied by a complete reference list in a Word document or pdf. Maximum length: text 5000 words or audio 20 minutes.*

Judge: Matthew Ricketson, JERAA president and Australian Press Council member

There was a limited number of entries in this category and the standard of entries appeared to be slightly down on last year. There was no clear winner, so the judge opted to give two highly commended citations.

Highly Commended: Cheyne Anderson, University of Technology Sydney, 'The lost nomads: media representations of Indigenous encounters'

Highly Commended: Tim Clare, University of Melbourne, 'Dilemmas in journalism'

The Australian Press Council Prize for Journalism Student of the Year (\$750). This is for a student who has performed well in all academic subjects and who has also produced outstanding journalism as part of their coursework.

*Entrants must be able to demonstrate high achievement across their academic subjects and outstanding achievement in journalism produced as part of their coursework.*

Judge: Matthew Ricketson, JERAA president and Australian Press Council member

There was a larger number of entries in this category and many of them were strong. The judge recommended that the entry criteria need to be tightened as they do not take into account the amount of journalistic work students do outside their degree program.

Highly Commended: Lily Nothling, Queensland University of Technology

Winner: Rochelle Kirkham, RMIT University

The student had an impressive number and range of stories, from breaking news to soft news to backgrounders. She combined this portfolio with part-time work in the industry, all the while maintaining an impressive academic record that was commended by her lecturers.