

2018 Ossie award winners

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

Judge: Myriam Robin, Australian Financial Review

Winner - Benjamin Ansell, University of Melbourne. "[More than 60 couples fleeced in Willows wedding wipeout.](#)"

Journalists can play an important role in holding others to account, and I believe that's exactly what Ben did with his story on the Willows wedding venue. By checking financial documents, as well as speaking to those affected by the centre's collapse, Ben has helped put important information on the public record. This kind of reporting can be a hard slog, but it makes society better.

Highly commended: Emily Selleck, Bond University. "[Chantilly Lacey: Killer ex-WAG now \\$7m-a-year fashion queen](#)"

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

Judge: Rick Morton, The Australian

Winner - Tallulah Thompson, University of Technology Sydney. "[The heart of the matter.](#)"

Tallulah's report on surgery waiting times for heart patients (and others) at the Children's Hospital at Westmead contains all the elements of excellent story-telling. She has taken an issue that affects children and families deeply and illustrated it with a compelling case-study with the hard nose of sources inside the hospital who are clearly worried about the strain being placed on patients and their loved ones due to system blockages. It is well written, backed with data and in its own quiet way demands the reader care with some urgency about the problem.

Highly commended: Sarah Makse, Curtin University. "[Turning over a new leaf](#)"

**Best text-based story by a Postgraduate Student - over 750 words (\$200)**

Judge: Belinda Seeney, News Corp Australia

Winner - Angus Smith, Monash University. "[Eight Years On: The Syrian war and its child refugees.](#)"

Angus produced a sophisticated, insightful and accessible snapshot into a complex and ongoing issue. He employed sensitivity while telling a few of the human stories plucked from the crisis to deliver an emotional punch while his careful research and astute observations lent the feature authority and gravitas.

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

Judge: Lara Webster, ABC Radio

Winner - Andrea Thiis-Evensen, Monash University. "[Memorial service for slain teenage Liep Gony.](#)"

This radio package told the listener everything they needed to know in two minutes. What is more though, the mix of atmos and the short but emotive grabs really did convey the emotion and grief the family still held onto. Overall, it was a well-developed, respectful, succinct package that included a range of voices, emotion and significant details.

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

Judge: Angus Randall, ABC Radio

Winner - Dilpreet Kaur, University of Melbourne. "['Perfection' is more than skin deep: Being brown, being beautiful.](#)"

Her entry took what was an inherently visual story and turned it into compelling audio. The piece was beautifully scripted, and intertwined several personal stories to help others discover and understand a depressing trend they may never have heard of.

Highly commended - Emily Bradfield, Bond University. "[My family doesn't have many secrets.](#)"

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

Judge: Katie Toney, Seven News

Winner - Andrea Thiis-Evensen and Ezra Holt, Monash University. "[Firefighters climb hard for charity.](#)"

This story had all the elements of an excellent video news story. The go pro vision gave insight into the event and the interviews were emotional and told the story well. The story was put together with sensitivity and written clearly. The audio was good quality as was the video aspect. Well done.

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

Judge: Simon Royal, ABC TV

Winner: Sinead Fogarty, Macleay College. "[Rising from Mother's Ruin.](#)"

Reporter-less pieces are, arguably, the most difficult of TV broadcast stories to do - there's nowhere to hide your mistakes and blemishes. Technically this piece was beautifully shot and edited. Too often there's a tendency to forget TV is about the pictures (otherwise it might as well be radio) - yours were nice to look at. As a story it was so much more than just neat gin. It blended, in a fashion of speaking, the personal tales of women working in this industry, and the issues they face breaking into it. Then there was the quote of the week, which could only come from a Melbourne gin maker "I've tried to make 4 seasons in one mouthful." Well done

Highly Commended: Naveen Razik, Queensland University of Technology. "[World Science Festival in Brisbane.](#)"

### **John Newfong Prize for Reporting on Indigenous Affairs (\$200)**

Judge: Chris Graham, New Matilda and NIRS

Winner - Jack Banister, University of Melbourne. "[Indigenous suicide in custody: 'How have lives just slipped away?'](#)"

Outstanding reporting. Comprehensive and impacting. The subject is extremely important. It's also part of a very important broader investigation by The Guardian. A really impressive piece of writing – well constructed. Another piece Newfong himself would have approved of strongly.

Highly commended - Massilia Aili, University of Technology Sydney. "[All acknowledgement and no action for Indigenous people.](#)"

### **Best innovation in journalism**

Judge: Nick Evershed, The Guardian

Winner: Immerse – UniSA.

There were a lot of great entries in the Innovation category this year. Immerse stood out not because of the ambitious use of VR in storytelling, but because it was clear students had made an effort to find stories that were particularly well-suited to a new, experimental medium. The feature on the artist was particularly compelling (and it's hard to think of a better way to present a story featuring wall-to-ceiling artworks).

Highly commended - Jessica Woolley (and Monash University digital production students). "[Global Poverty.](#)"

### **Best publication**

Judge: Matt Oberhardt, The Courier-Mail

Winner – Macleay College. [Hatch](#)

Macleay College's entry Hatch stands out from a high quality field with its engaging format, topic selection and well written stories. The inclusion of a news ticker and slider on the home page gives the publication a dynamic news feel and facebook and twitter feeds help provide up-to-the-minute reports.

Highly commended: University of Melbourne. [The Citizen](#)

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

Judge: Rob Maccoll, Freelance

Winner – Brendan Martin, Queensland University of Technology. "[Jason Knows Ipswich.](#)"

Jason has obviously spent a considerable amount of time and effort getting to know his subject and documenting his lifestyle and environment. He shows an understanding of the lighting, lens selection and framing needed to tell this story. His images have not been manipulated or over-processed which is how good photojournalism should be. They are of a high standard and would comfortably fit on the pages of any magazine.

Highly Commended: Edward See Yuen Wong, Monash University. "[We are dreamers](#)': The Filipino migrant workers of Hong Kong."

### Investigative journalism by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student (\$200)

Judge: Linda Mottram, ABC PM

Winner - Kate Banville, Bond University. "[Veterans fighting for protection visas for Afghan interpreters](#)."

This series of reports meets the investigative category at a high level. Kate demonstrated the ability to identify an important story for investigation, to formulate hypotheses about the reason for the injustice in visa allocation for Afghan interpreters and to systematically and persistently set about an investigation in the face of obstacles. She has pressed on despite an obstinate minister at the heart of the issue. She has made use of access to documents which have then been used to deepen understanding and drive developments across a series of stories. The story brings to the fore a deeply human implication of Australia going to war, but one which was obscured from public view. It has served to advance government accountability in the matter. In addition, Kate has demonstrated skills in ensure her story went to a platform that would give the greatest exposure in the interests of advancing justice for a powerless group to whom Australia has a responsibility.

Highly commended - Krystle Richardson, Deakin University. "[Golden Key: Worth joining or a waste of money](#)."

### Investigative journalism (all media)

Judge: Alison Sandy, Seven News

Winner - Sybilla Gross and Suryan Zaki, Monash University. "[Bloody difficult coping with periods when you're homeless](#)."

This certainly grabbed my attention straight away and was something I'd never given too much attention to before. It's engaging to the audience, well written and the pictures are good. It was great having a homeless person but they shouldn't have been left to the end. I'd have opened with them to provide the emotional context. My one other criticism was many of the pictures are of homeless men, rather than women who get their period. It is the winner in my opinion in that it's an issue on our backdoor step and the effort that has been made in undertaking this project is to be applauded.

Highly commended – Caitlin Archbold and Bianca Banchetti (with Stefanny Widjaja and Cindy Gulla), Queensland University of Technology. "[The faces behind Jakarta's spilling waste](#)."

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

Judge: Mindframe

Winner - Rebekah Roennfeldt, Griffith University. "[Community Approach Needed for Suicide Prevention.](#)"

This article features many aspects to ensure it is a safe, accurate and responsible portrayal of suicide. The article is solution focused and highlights work being done in the sector, with the inclusion of expert comment. The article outlines how the community can help suicide prevention and includes help-seeking information.

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

Judge: Mindframe

Winner - Krati Garg, University of Melbourne. "[Physician, heal thyself? A prescription for trouble for all of us, doctors say](#)"

This article features many aspects to ensure it is a safe, accurate and responsible portrayal of mental health and suicide. It includes safe use of language and expert opinion. The statistics used are within context, the complexity of suicide is highlighted and it includes calls for action and help-seeking.

### **Our Watch (Individual, Any Medium, Undergraduate) (\$200 prize)**

Judges: Caitlyn Hoggan and Jane Gilmore

Winner – Ninah Kopel and Ollie Henderson, University of Technology Sydney. "[After #MeToo: Conditions of entry.](#)"

This podcast provides an in-depth exploration and analysis of the experiences of immigrant women who are victims of sexual and intimate partner violence. The podcast adopts a best practice approach, and meets the guidelines by acknowledging and naming intimate partner violence, and providing details for support services. It also delivers a clear picture of the additional challenges immigrant women experience including victim blaming and isolation, and discusses the gendered context in which violence occurs, highlighting the power perpetrators and the broader system have over victim/survivors. The piece also meets the guidelines by offering commentary from reliable sources including academics, and victim/survivors themselves bringing a human voice to the story.

Highly Commended – Jessica Woolley, Monash University. "[‘You have to start from somewhere’: From changing the course to changing the culture.](#)"

### **Our Watch (Individual, Any Medium, Postgraduate) (\$200 prize)**

Judges: Caitlyn Hoggan and Jane Gilmore

Winner - Amber Schultz, Monash University. [“We need a refuge: Cowes residents confront Minister over family violence services”](#)

Amber provides a well-constructed overview of the murder of Samantha Fraser. Amber meets the guidelines by naming the murder, and including the perpetrator in the story, as opposed to leaving him absent. The article also discusses the broader context of family violence within the local community, identifying local statistics and the local challenges experienced by women in terms of accessing services. Multiple sources are called on for a statement throughout the article, including government and local community members who were able to humanise the story and the victim.

#### **Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma - Asia Pacific (\$200 prize)**

Judge: Cait McMahon, Dart Centre

Winner – Gabriella Marchant, RMIT. [“Baby never known life outside immigration detention”](#)

Gabriella Marchant's 2 minute clip of Vietnamese asylum seekers Paul, Huyen and baby Isabella was comprehensive and engaging despite its 2 min duration. The piece was sensitive in its reporting without being sentimental. The scripting was fluid and thoughtful and the delivery clear and easy to follow. The silent footage of Huyen holding Isabella whilst Gabriella's voice-over spoke about Huyen's depression and the baby's anxiety was perfectly matched and brought home their traumatic state powerfully. Importantly Gabriella included helpline numbers at the end of her piece for anyone suffering similarly. Congratulations and well done.

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

Judges: Mike Steketee and Julie Kinross, Australian Press Council members

Winner - Russell Phipps, University of the Sunshine Coast. [“Ethical journalism and the intrusion into grief.”](#)

In tackling the issue of so called 'death knocks', where journalists intrude into family grief in pursuit of a story, Russell Phipps has presented a well written and researched essay on the ethical dilemmas in reporting on tragedy, respecting privacy and sharing the story of people's lives with a wider audience.

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

Judges: Mike Steketee and Julie Kinross, Australian Press Council members

Winner - Daria Impiombato, Monash University. [“Charlie Pourquoi? Freedom of expression and its limitations in modern western democracies.”](#)

A well-researched and well-argued essay on balancing freedom of speech and the press in a democracy with limitations on hate speech and protecting the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, in the interests of combatting extremism and encouraging cohesive societies.

### **The Australian Press Council Prize for Journalism Student of the Year (\$750 prize)**

Judges: Mike Steketee and Julie Kinross, Australian Press Council members

Winner - Sinead Fogarty, Macleay College

(Examples include [Tales of a foreign Correspondent](#), [UK's joint-oldest man celebrates his 110th birthday](#), [The Australian women rising from Mother's Ruin](#) and [A fun-sized premier league](#).)

Sinead Fogarty demonstrated a superior ability to connect with and get the most out of interviewees and capture the essence of what is of interest to the reader. Sinead has a mature and lively writing style, has embraced new media and developed a compendium of consistently high quality work. Her work includes book reviews for the 2017 Hatch-Stella Prize and an article in which she accurately predicts the winner. Sinead achieved the highest academic marks for her year.

Highly Commended - [Selby Stewart](#), Monash University.

Highly Commended - [Madeline Stephens](#), Curtin University.