

# Ossies winners 2015

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

*Judged by Michael Auciello, reporter, News Corp*

**Winner:**                    **Anthony von der Borch, University of South Australia**  
Parents to face money jab over vaccinations

This is a really well written hard news story on what can be a very divisive issue. The intro was precise and clear, and the first few pars explained the situation well. But the standout quality of this story was its balance and ability to bring in different voices than we might otherwise hear on the topic: from a doctor who advocates for vaccinations but still questions the policy, to the mother who is not the typical “anti-vaccination parent” we can come across in the media, but brings a different side to the opposing view. This story gives people plenty to think about. Well done.

**Highly commended:** **Alana Mitchelson, Monash University**  
Family of WWI veteran Jim Kerr finally reunited with his treasure trove of Anzac memories

There were quite a few that could have been highly commended in a group that featured many well-researched stories on important local, national and international issues. But Alana's story was a standout. A really engaging story, this is well researched and carefully handled throughout. The accompanying video adds more value to the story as well.

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

*Judged by Adam Gartrell, national political correspondent, The Sun-Herald and Sunday Age*

**Winner:** **Jacqueline Krynda, University of Sydney**  
High Aboriginal prison rates linked to hearing loss

Jacqueline’s story takes a well-worn topic – Indigenous disadvantage – but looks at it through a new and original prism. Her research and sourcing is strong, allowing her to fully explore a complex topic with authority. Her writing is clear and concise, ensuring the article is engaging to read and flows effortlessly. She resists the urge to tell this story in an overly emotive or manipulative way, allowing the facts and experts to speak for themselves.

**Highly commended:** **Rachael Dexter, RMIT University**  
Death and the institution

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

*Judged by Candice Marcus, ABC News Adelaide*

**Winner: Jesse Banks, University of Newcastle**  
First dates

This piece was engaging and well executed. It took full advantage of the medium of radio with sound effects and a great selection of grabs from a variety of voices. The subject matter was interesting, especially to a young audience, and the method of storytelling through vox pops was effective. Jesse demonstrated strong presentation skills and a flair for creativity.

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

*Judged by Anne Hastwell, freelance journalist and producer for The Wire radio current affairs program*

**Winner:** **Jarni Blakkarly, RMIT University**  
Pro-democracy protest in Malaysia

This complex and compelling piece made use of music and a range of voices to tell an important story of a growing social movement in Malaysia. The focus on the song, the T-shirt and specific young protestors was a colourful way of telling a bigger story. The listener hears not just the sounds of the street, smoothly mixed with voice and music, but also different stories and points of view, including a government official defending misappropriation of money as normal. Narration is natural and descriptive and following the story through to evening and describing the protestors willingness to sleep on paper bags sums up the determination of the movement, with echoes of the Arab Spring, and closes the story neatly.

**Highly commended:** **Rachael Dexter, RMIT University**  
The Casserole Club

This small personal story of a woman cooking for her elderly neighbour illuminates a bigger issue of social disconnection. The interviews were natural and engaging, atmospheric sound was used to skilfully link parts of the story and the linking script told the story in everyday language that completely connected the listener into the story.

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

*Judged by Sharon Smith, freelance broadcast journalist*

**Winner:** **Joe Cooney, Queensland University of Technology**  
Obama's arrival in Brisbane

An impressive entry given the subject nature and challenging conditions under which it would have been produced. This story would compare well against any other produced on the same day by more experienced and more highly-resourced news outlets. The story was well paced and structured, and highlighted the journalist's sense of timing and creativity. Thorough research and cool thinking under pressure were also evident.

**Highly commended:** **Fraser Goldsworthy, University of South Australia**  
CFS asbestos

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

*Judged by Michael Sexton, ABC News South Australia Editor*

**Winner:**                    **James Hall, RMIT University**  
Floating Away

This is a beautifully shot story about an ethnic Vietnamese community being persecuted in Cambodia. The strength is taking the viewer into the homes, markets and work places. The scripting is concise and the story construction has the right rhythm. It is clear James has won the trust of the people and so tells their story with credibility and flair. A brilliant piece of work.

**Highly commended:** **Brendan O'Shea, Monash University**  
Pure Pop Records closes down

This examination of the tension between pop culture and suburban gentrification was very well told. The vision and sound made the story dynamic but within it characters and story lines were developed. It is clear Brendan has constructed shot sequences to illustrate the story, and his script was stylish.

**Highly commended:** **Siqi Yuan, University of Technology, Sydney**  
*Be Proud*

This incredibly ambitious project sought to document the impact the rise of extremism has on Islamic communities in Western Sydney. At its best it takes the viewer inside homes to tell stories of family, migration and faith. Although it is intimate the journalist retains an outsider's non-judgemental view, allowing the viewer to draw their own conclusions.

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

*Judged by Myriam Robin, media reporter, Crikey*

**Winner:** **Kendall Hutt and the Rainbow Warrior Project team, AUT University**  
Eyes of Fire

The Eyes of Fire project used the online medium well, through a clear, easy-to-navigate and multimedia-rich website, but also contained significant amounts of more traditional video and print reporting, which was tightly edited and interesting. The two were combined well to both entertain and impart information. Looking through it was an education in the Rainbow Warrior and its significance.

**Highly commended:** **Simon Gradkowski, Monash University**  
The Saints' Long Road to Heaven.

An interesting and well-put-together package that played with the new possibilities of digital storytelling.

## **Best publication (Individual or Group, Undergraduate or Postgraduate)**

*Judged by Anne Denny, Head of Production, News Corp*

### **Winner: City Journal Online, RMIT University**

City Journal is an engaging website that produces a lively mix of web stories, video and video news broadcasts. Its story mix, presentation and style serves its inner-city target audience well with a balance of local, world and national features, news and sport. Its spread into non-traditional news media such as Instagram and Snapchat will help prepare students for work in a rapidly changing media landscape.

### **Highly commended: Bond Briefs, Bond University**

What a great introduction to journalism for these first-year students. They're getting a rapid introduction to a range of skills, situations and challenges they will face throughout their working life. They are writing about their community for their community and their emailed newsletter is an engaging mix of on-campus life from the controversial issues through to sporting success. A great effort from first years.

**Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma - Asia Pacific (Individual, Undergraduate or Postgraduate, Any Medium) (\$200 prize)**

*Judged by Cait McMahon, Dart Centre Asia-Pacific managing director, and Trina McLennan*

**Winner: Krati Garg, University of Melbourne**

Garg's piece is a comprehensive report on the impact of trauma reporting, both in the field and on return. Krati Garg included a broad range of interview subjects to highlight the issues for practicing journalists, and seamlessly drew them together to create an insightful and informative narrative on this important issue. She skilfully took the story beyond being purely informative to also being educational by including embedded hyperlinks throughout the story as useful resources.

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

*Judged by Brenton Edwards, director and principal photographer, Stories Well Told*

**Winner:** **Nicola McCaskill, Monash University**  
Everything But

Nicola embraced the complete ideology of photojournalism by combining images and words to create a compelling story. Having only recently picked up a DSLR, Nicola has captured the essence of the story with well-composed images that tell the story of the daily and often uninspiring work of a sex worker without being gratuitous.

**Highly commended:** **Alan Weedon, RMIT University**  
Mixed Race

A beautifully lit series of portraits.

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

*Judged by Nance Haxton, ABC current affairs, Brisbane*

**Winner:** **Jack Paynter, Monash University**  
The Wait for the Willows

This was the standout entry of a competitive field. Jack's story on the failure of the willow tree scheme also exposed the failure of regulatory bodies in keeping such schemes accountable to their investors. I am not surprised this was picked up by The Age - and that is a credit to a student as many journalists dream of being published in such an esteemed publication. Not only was there thorough research in the background but the interviews were fantastic - Dean Jones particularly. Great use of quotes. Jack's research was evident throughout, but what stood out was Jack's refreshing, lively and easy to read style which made what could have been a boring business story into compelling read from beginning to end.

**Highly commended:** **Holly Byrne, University of SA**  
Player payments and country football

A fascinating piece which effectively showed how the lack of salary caps could start to cause problems in country football leagues. Well researched and great quotes from her interviews made this a great yarn.

**Highly commended:** **Karma Barndon, Edith Cowan University**  
Chevron's Wheatstone LNG project

In-depth research throughout highlighting the social inequities at Onslow and the corporate power at Onslow by Chevron. The profiles on local Aboriginal people were a highlight and showed the student's skills at interviewing.

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

*Judged by Ben Eltham, national affairs correspondent, New Matilda*

**Winner:** **Daryl Holland, Elyas Khan, Keryn Reynolds, Andy Hazel, Ronelle Richards and Scott Tibballs, University of Melbourne**  
Family First puts its family front and centre in election push'

A group investigation led by Elyas Khan, Daryl Holland and Keryn Reynolds uncovered the influence of a Melbourne property developer Ashley Fenn on the Victorian branch of political party Family First. Khan, Holland and Reynolds' investigation was impressive. They combined public source discovery with old-fashioned 'shoe leather' reporting to build a compelling narrative. The authors were able to demonstrate that Family First in Victoria is now effectively controlled by Mr Fenn and his family members. The party has dramatically changed its policy platform to push for developer-friendly policies, and was active in preference horse-trading during the run up to the 2014 Victorian election.

**Highly commended:** **Bond University investigative journalism team, Bond University**  
Bikie Laws: The Fallout

A group of students from Bond University deserve high praise for their authoritative and in-depth investigation of Queensland's anti-biker VLAD laws. Particularly noteworthy was the impressive feature article written by Bianca Hrovat, and the report analysing crime data by William Wright, Keziah Sullivan and Darius Matuschak.

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

*Judged by Marc Bryant and Jenyfer Locke, Hunter Institute of Mental Health*

**Winner:** **Freddy Woodhouse, University of Melbourne**

Domestic violence: how PTSD can put veteran's families at risk.

Freddy produced an online feature article for The Citizen at University of Melbourne. His article addresses a number of issues associated with veterans living with PTSD and the ripple effects on their families. He conducted in-depth interviews with experts in the field, identifying risk factors and effects on mental health, prevalence of suicide, self-harm and domestic violence. Freddy approaches the issues sensitively and respectfully but would be encouraged to consider reporting guidelines in mind when writing about suicide and providing targeted support service details.

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

*Judged by Marc Bryant and Jenyfer Locke, Hunter Institute of Mental Health*

**Winner:** **Audrey Courty, Griffith University**

Unmasking 'subtle' racism and its impact on Indigenous health

Audrey has produced an informing online piece about the effects of subtle racism on Indigenous people within the Australian community. It is well researched, drawing on a range of personal and professional perspectives, coupled with survey findings from both non-Indigenous and Indigenous participants. The article addresses the role of the media in portraying negative stereotypes and the role that education can have in reframing attitudes and encouraging tolerance and understanding.

**Highly commended:** **Amelia Mills, RMIT University**

The rise of orthorexia: when healthy eating becomes deadly.

Amelia wrote a feature article about the lesser known eating disorder orthorexia. She articulated the need for sensitivity when interviewing sources and also the challenges around disclosure and how it impacts both personal and professional responses as a journalist. The article is informative and ends on a positive note of hope, highlighting the journey of recovery which is possible.

**Outstanding Contribution award (awarded at the discretion of the JERAA Executive)**

Not awarded in 2015