



## 2008 OSSIE AWARDS FOR STUDENT JOURNALISM

The Ossie Awards attracted a strong field in 2008, with 137 entries received from 17 universities and colleges from Australia and New Zealand. Many thanks to the judges for their time, expertise and thoughtful feedback:

- Bruce Atkinson, ABC Radio, Sunshine Coast
- Rory Gibson, Weekend Editor, The Courier-Mail
- John Grey, Online Editor, The Courier-Mail
- Peter Kerr, Commissioning Editor, The Sydney Morning Herald
- Brendan Hockings, News Editor, WIN TV Sunshine Coast
- The Hunter Institute for Mental Health (Response Ability Award)
- Tim Page, independent photographer, author, and film- and documentary-maker
- Daniel Sankey, Managing Editor, *Brisbane Times*, Fairfax
- Louise Willis, National Day Editor, ABC TV News

Angela Romano  
JEA Vice-President (Awards)  
Senior Lecturer in Journalism (Queensland University of Technology)

### CATEGORY 1

#### Best Print News Story by a Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

##### JUDGE

Daniel Sankey  
Managing Editor, *Brisbane Times*

##### WINNER

###### Annabelle Cottee

Bond University  
"Paralympians hung out to dry by swim suit snub"

##### JUDGE'S COMMENTS

The fact Annabelle's entry led the front page of a major Sunday newspaper, created enormous debate in national media, speaks volumes for the quality piece sourced directly from her personal contacts. Annabelle revealed that members of Australia's Paralympic swim team would not be permitted to race in the high-tech Speedo LZR Racer swimsuits - and her article led to an immediate backflip from the suit's makers. The large number of Australian gold medallists and world record breakers in the pool at the Paralympics owe a debt of thanks to Annabelle's scoop, without which they may have found it just that little bit more difficult to achieve their dreams.

##### HIGHLY COMMENDED

Ben Rossleigh  
University of Technology Sydney  
"Council risks second road collapse"

## **CATEGORY 2**

### **Best Radio News Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Bruce Atkinson  
ABC Radio News, Sunshine Coast

#### **WINNER**

**Emily Laurence**  
University of Technology Sydney  
"Town Hall"

## **CATEGORY 3**

### **Best TV News Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Brendan Hocking  
News Editor, WIN TV Sunshine Coast

#### **WINNER**

**Dimity Clancey**  
Macleay College

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

This was a well constructed news item. The reporter made good use of soundbyps from the protest march and ensuing arrests to give a good sense of atmosphere to her story. The subject matter was quite strong and the interview grabs complimented nicely.

## **CATEGORY 4**

### **Best Print Feature by an Undergraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Daniel Sankey  
Managing Editor, *Brisbane Times*

#### **WINNER**

**Matthew Knott**  
University of Technology Sydney  
"Silent suffering of the new lepers"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

For years, the debate over whether multiple chemical sensitivity is a real, physical disease - or simply a mental condition - has challenged the medical profession. Matthew gives readers the chance to make up their own minds by telling the stories of some of the sufferers of an illness which makes everyday a living hell. This was a stand-out piece that put a tormented human face to an argument that will continue to rage in medical circles.

## **Best Print Feature by an Undergraduate Student (cont.)**

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Luke Ebb  
University of South Australia  
"Life of an African ninja"

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Anna Rosendahl  
Bond University  
"Care scam plan"

## **CATEGORY 5**

### **Best Print Feature by a Postgraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Daniel Sankey  
Managing Editor, *Brisbane Times*

#### **WINNER**

**Shireen Baguley (nee Murphy)**  
University of Technology Sydney  
"Shrinking violets need not apply"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

In a category featuring several outstanding entries, Shireen's investigation into absence of women in Australian politics stands out as a timely, thought-provoking piece that strikes a chord with all audiences. Shireen's piece features a wealth of insightful commentary from female political trailblazers such as Julia Gillard and Julie Bishop interspersed with the musings of respected political and academic analysts. The fact Ms Gillard was scrutinised more for her hair, clothing and accessories than her leadership credentials is a point strongly identified and debated. Ironically, we recently witnessed a similar reaction with the appointment of Sarah Palin as John McCain's running mate in the US presidential elections.

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Mary Fallon  
University of Technology Sydney  
"The cool way to treat trauma"

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Belinda Hogan  
Queensland University of Technology  
"Bright sparks - why being a gifted student isn't always a blessing"

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Cheryl Malon  
Griffith Gold Coast  
"Star signs"

## **CATEGORY 6**

### **Best Radio Current Affairs Story by an Undergraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Bruce Atkinson  
ABC Radio News, Sunshine Coast

#### **WINNER**

##### **Katie Day**

Murdoch University  
"Naltrexone implants"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

Katie used sound to good effect in the piece. It was interesting subject matter and I also liked the way she went to the clinic and interviewed a range of talent, including patients, to give a first-hand account on the naltrexone implant.

## **CATEGORY 7**

### **Best TV Current Affairs Story by an Undergraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Brendan Hocking  
News Editor, WIN TV Sunshine Coast

#### **WINNER**

##### **Rifet Hrkic and Marie Frisholm**

Edith Cowan University

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

This story was a clear winner in its category and would not be out of place in many current affairs lineups around the nation. The subject matter was clearly well researched, as evidenced by the thoughtful progression of the story. Interview talent were really quite exceptional given their backgrounds. A very solid piece of reporting, well done.

## **CATEGORY 8**

### **Best Broadcast Current Affairs Story by a Postgraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Louise Willis  
National Day Editor, ABC TV News

#### **WINNER**

##### **Paul Munro**

Edith Cowan University  
"Meckering Earthquake"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

This 40th anniversary story was very well researched, constructed and presented. This journalist made the best use of the few available photos and talent from the time to provide the viewer with a strong personal sense of the impact of the quake. He then moved seamlessly to present, and possible future earthquake issues facing southern Western Australia. All this without the benefit of historical footage of the Meckering earthquake itself. Well done.

#### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Estelle Lewis  
Edith Cowan University  
"Disability Funding"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

This story offered viewers a heartfelt look at the problems facing parents of children with disabilities. It was a moving story which had high quality production values. The entry was a close second in this category.

## **CATEGORY 9**

### **Best Online Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

John Grey  
Online Editor, *The Courier-Mail*

#### **WINNER**

##### **Matthew Knott**

University of Technology Sydney  
"Toxic legacy of the F-111 bomber"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

Well researched, strongly written. Full of information and excellent use of quotes, allowing the interviewees and the facts to tell the story, without the writer getting in the way. This creates an emotional response without editorialising.

Basic web navigation used to break up article.

Good audio of interview (which worked better in the Australian's audio slideshow – always better to give listeners something to look at)

Good use of links.

## **Best Online Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student (cont.)**

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Stephanie Ryan and Matt Panagiotidis  
RMIT  
"Danger lane"

### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Carla Okai, Jennifer Grieve, Elise Snashall-Woodhams  
RMIT  
"Advertising industry condemned for sexual content"

## **CATEGORY 10**

### **Best Story by an International Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Peter Kerr  
Commissioning Editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*

#### **WINNER**

**John Connell**  
University of Technology Sydney  
"The desert talks too"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

John's radio documentary on the Northern Territory intervention was a standout work amid a wide range of entries of impressive quality. It involved months of research and extensive travel, some of it very challenging, beyond the capital cities to indigenous communities in South Australia and the Northern Territory. The sound work was evocative of place and character, the narrative was strong, complex issues were well defined and well explained, and the documentary provided textured insights into how various communities and individuals felt about their circumstances and the impact of the intervention. This was a very professional effort, ahead of mainstream media in its scope and thoroughness at the time it was prepared.

## **CATEGORY 11**

### **Best Photojournalism by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student**

#### **JUDGE**

Tim Page  
Photojournalist, author, and film- and documentary-maker

#### **WINNER**

**Benjamin Ball**  
University of Technology, Sydney  
"Solitude in the city"

#### **JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

Benjamin Ball, must have had one shooting his frames and it shows. This essay should be extended, developed and published. Benjamin's photography clearly stood out from other entries thanks to his sense of composition, mission, essay and slice of passion. Herein lies an eye worth developing.

**CATEGORY 12**  
**Hunter Institute Response Ability Prize**  
**For mental health reporting in any medium**

**JUDGE**

Hunter Institute of Mental Health

**WINNER**

**Christopher Paver**

University of Technology, Sydney  
"NSW cops at risk of mental injury"

**JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

This article highlights an important and current issue. It is well written and comprehensive in presenting research as well as a balanced representation of varied sources and perspectives. As with many of the entries, the piece was well developed and delivered, and used sensitive and appropriate language, however it was the strong health promotion and de-stigmatisation message that made this entry a standout.

**CATEGORY 13**  
**Best Regular Student Publication**  
**Published or broadcast in any medium more than once per semester**

**JUDGE**

Rory Gibson  
Weekend Editor, *The Courier-Mail*

**WINNER**

*Te Waha Nui*  
Auckland University of Technology

**JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

This newspaper covered a wide range of topics which were well-written and edited, and a bit of effort went into page design. I believe the fact that the newspaper strives for an audience outside the walls of the university forces the students into being more professional about their work and not approach it as a university assignment.

**CATEGORY 14**  
**Best Occasional Student Publication (Any medium)**

**JUDGE**

Rory Gibson  
Weekend Editor, *The Courier-Mail*

**WINNER**

***kuRB***  
Queensland University of Technology

**JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

This is a vibrant publication which uses good pictures well. It is attractively designed and the content was relevant to its target audience. It had stiff competition, but to use racing parlance it was the winner by a nose in a classy field. I believe the fact that the newspaper strives for an audience outside the walls of the university forces the students into being more professional about their work and not approach it as a university assignment.

**CATEGORY 15**  
**Best Online Publication**

**JUDGE**

John Grey  
Online Editor, *The Courier-Mail*

**WINNER**

***Reportage***  
University of Technology, Sydney

**JUDGE'S COMMENTS**

The site had a clean design and excellent content – entertaining, informative, varied, and well edited. Very professional. I would like to see more multimedia and more opportunities for reader interaction.

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

***City Journal***  
RMIT

**JUDGE'S GENERAL NOTES FOR 2008**

The quality of writing in all sites entered was impressive. Design and ease of navigation varies. But there has been relatively little use of multimedia and few offered opportunities for interaction.

**CATEGORY 16**  
**Best Story (Any Medium)**

**JUDGE**

Chosen by the JEA Executive from the winners of categories 1 to 12

**WINNER**

**Matthew Knott**

University of Technology Sydney

"Toxic legacy of the F-111 bomber"

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

**Annabelle Cottee**

Bond University

"Paralympians hung out to dry by swim suit snub"

**CATEGORY 17**

**Dr Charles Stuart Prize for Best Student Publication (Any Medium)**

**JUDGE**

Chosen by the JEA Executive from the winners of categories 13, 14 and 15

**WINNER**

*Te Waha Nui*

Auckland University of Technology

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

***kuRB***

Queensland University of Technology