

## JUDGES 2010 OSSIE AWARDS

### **1. Best Print News Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student**

Judges: Phillip Dickson, Editorial Manager, Australian Associated Press, Mike Osborne, Editor, Australian Associated Press, Joanne Williamson, Deputy Editor, Australian Associated Press

Winner: Josh Gale AUT University, New Zealand "Auckland's dirty secret" Published Te Waha Nui, June 2010.

Citation: A well-rounded article that highlighted an increase in underage prostitution in Auckland's CBD, why it was happening and how authorities were responding. Its non-judgmental and matter-of-fact style presented first-hand stories of young sex workers and the people trying to help in a form that made compelling reading.

Highly Commended: Roxanne Taylor Edith Cowan University "Is WA in danger of another oil spill disaster? " Published 3rd Degree, May 28, 2010

Citation: This looked at a problem with cement work on oil well bores that was a contributing cause for Montara oil well blowout off the northern coast of Western Australia and the BP oil well disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. It warned that other oil wells along the WA coast may be at risk for the same reason.

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

Judge: Tracy Bowden, Presenter, ABC-TV

Winner: Ann Jones, Edith Cowan University. Chile Emergency Measures'

Citation: Ann's report stood out as containing all the elements of a professional radio news story. She showed initiative in contacting talent overseas and organising translation. The story covered the issue with balance and brevity, and a good sense of urgency.

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

Judge: Jessica Rowe, journalist, author, television presenter

Winner: Damian Smith from Edith Cowan university

Citation: What I liked about his story was the fresh approach he took to covering an issue like bank profits. I had never heard an explanation from an economist that profits were good as it meant banks could continue to offer affordable home loans. Although some of the picture quality wasn't as good as some of the other entrants I thought his innovative way of covering a "dry issue" made it a good tv news story.

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

Judge: Murray Waldren, Senior Feature Writer, The Australian

Winner: Nic White, Curtin University Our man in Washington

Citation: Subtle and polished, this profile wore its research and fact gathering with deceptive ease while unveiling multifaceted insights into someone well-practised at dealing with interviewers and the press. The style was relaxed and the writing accomplished. Overall, a sophisticated and quite penetrating revelation of a complex subject.

Highly Commended: Anna Watanabe UTS It's not easy being radioactive-green

Highly Commended: Clare Elizabeth Negus Edith Cowan University  
Beyond the despair: just another whitefella with a notepad

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

Judge: Pamela Walkley, Editor, Money Magazine

Winner: Jolene Williams, University of Canterbury

Citation: I have never heard of Amy Brown but when I finished reading Jolene Williams's feature on her I felt I knew her really well. In a constrained space Williams drew a detailed picture alive with detail that encapsulated the essence of her subject. The writing was tight with good use of quotes, insights and reflections.

Highly Commended: Anthony Gough, J School

Citation: Well written, paints a very interesting word picture that draws in the reader.

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

Judge: Wendy Carlisle, Reporter Background Briefing, ABC

Winner: Tess Morrell, UTS, 'Juvenile Justice in Crisis'

Citation: Tess Morrell's story was a courageous piece of journalism about the spiralling rates of young people on remand in NSW. She did this through the story of Tom who had been convicted of robbery and is now seeking to stay out of custody despite the onerous curfew conditions placed on him by authorities. Through Tom's story the listener got a bird's eye view of a juvenile justice system that is horribly broken. The scripting was strong, the presentation excellent and this was underpinned by a solid dramatic structure.

There was no sentimentality, no glossing over Tom's crimes. Just good solid storytelling about how the state is dealing with youth like Tom.

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

Judge: Bronwyn Herbert, ABC News & Current Affairs

Winner: Joel Tozer, UTS: impact of proposed cloud seeding in the Snowy Mountains

Citation: Joel showed excellent video journalism skills in putting together this report. Cloud seeding is extremely topical and Joel showed solid news judgement in the interview choices and construction of the story. Given that Joel shot, edited and scripted this story on his own – it was an excellent feat. Interviews included a federal Senator, a Snowy Hydro water contractor, and farmer. Joel did a good job out in the field choosing relevant backdrops for his interviews as well as editing the sequences. He also appropriately used maps to show the scale of the cloud seeding project. Well done.

Highly Commended: Emily Boyle, Tayssa Barone, Claire Gallagher and Yioti Vamvouklis, CSU, Bathurst. For their story indigenous youth unemployment.

Citation: This story had an excellent news hook, hinged on Andrew “Twiggy” Forrest’s Generation One project. The producers did a good job of trying to coax a shy indigenous man into talking about his job working as an apprentice plasterer. The producers showed great empathy to the complex issues surrounding indigenous unemployment. Well chosen talent for the story, including Warren Mundine, young indigenous workers, to relevant local employment services providers. A good job of producing a solid local angle out of a national story

Highly Commended: David Stewart, J School. Queenslander art exhibition at Ipswich Art Gallery (broadcast on ABC Stateline).

Citation: David produced a well constructed story line for what was a story that was a natural fit for TV current affairs. There was well chosen period music, which reflected the era of the homes showcased in the story. Good use of archival footage. The professional quality of this current affairs story was evident – it was broadcast as a feature on ABC TV Queensland’s Stateline program. David has a strong broadcast voice.

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

Judge: Lynne Malcolm, Executive Producer, ABC Radio National Science Unit.

Winners: Patrick Wright, Lauren Said-Moorhouse and Amanda Hoh, UTS, for their video package called ‘Surcharge Sinners’

Citation: This was a good choice of story which was covered in a very professional and thorough manner. Their investigation involved surveying 120 restaurants across three states and their story appeared to have some influence - which was revealed in the final captions announcing that since their investigation some restaurants and cafes have now changed their policies. Engaging storytelling and production techniques were employed including slick titles, a good lead into the story and interesting camera work.

Highly Commended: Briena Barrett, Edith Cowan, for her video piece "Back in the Closet"

Citation: Briena's story is one that is not often heard – but is important and relevant in the establishment of appropriate and effective care for the elderly. It was well produced with good visuals and selection of locations and interviewees. Her presentation was strong, clear and compassionate.

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

Judge: Jason Whittaker | deputy editor, Crikey.com.au

Winner: Amanda Hoh, Patrick Wright, Lauren Said-Moorhouse (University of Technology, Sydney)

Citation: Many outstanding entries in this category tackled substantial public policy and human interest issues in a thorough and thoughtful way. But this entry stood out for two reasons: it demonstrated the best use of the online medium, and it achieved what the best reporting should do - having a real and lasting impact. This was a piece of genuinely original reporting achieved through significant legwork and by harnessing new media tools. The copy was clean and concise, the multi-media aspects were professionally produced, and the Google Map was an important value-add in telling the story. Crowd-sourcing readers via Twitter also demonstrated real initiative. A great example of what journalism in the digital age should be.

Highly Commended: Alex Perrottet ,Pacific Media Centre, School of Communication Studies, AUT University.

Citation: These reports in the aftermath of human disaster in Samoa were impressively thorough while being compelling and compassionate pieces of journalism. It demonstrated the sort of follow-up journalism that is too infrequently done once initial media attention fades. The copy and accompanying photographs paint vivid portraits of people and communities to a degree none of the local mainstream media achieved.

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

Judge: Steve Marshall, President, Foreign Correspondents' Association

Winner: Lauren Said-Moorehouse, Making the directors cut.

Citation: Lauren Said-Moorehouse's entry is well constructed piece of journalism consisting of clear, concise writing. A strong opening paragraph grabbed the reader's attention and held it throughout the entire story. The piece is well researched, informative and ticked all the boxes required for newspaper publication. Congratulations Lauren.

### **11. Best Photojournalism (Judged on the merit of both the photographs and accompanying text)**

Judge: Moshe Roszenweig, Curator, Head-On, 4d Photography

Winner: Andrew Mackinnon UTS for his piece 'The Young Disciple'.

Citation: His multimedia presentation tackles the re-discovery of religion among young people in western society. It is both informative and visually interesting.

Highly commended: Benjamin Ball for his piece 'Ahmed Nur, Taxi Driver' which looks at a migrant to Australia and his struggles to deal with some prevailing perceptions in Australian society of Moslems migrants.

### **12. Hunter Institute Response Ability Prize for mental health reporting.**

Judges: Amy Laybutt, Senior Project Officer for Response Ability for Journalism Education, Hunter Institute of Mental Health; Marc Bryant, Projects Manager of the Mindframe National Media Initiative.

Winner: Krystine Lumanta Macleay College, Sydney "Recovery time".

Citation: This print feature outlined one woman's experience of schizophrenia, with particular emphasis on her road to recovery, not only through medication but also through family support and acceptance. Through his story, the article emphasises the importance of raising general awareness about schizophrenia (perhaps one of the most misunderstood of mental illnesses) and the ability of those with the illness, with effective treatment and support, to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. The author has written a moving and sensitive personal story, with strong positive messages of hope and strength. The story is well supported by the inclusion of quotes, facts and statistics about schizophrenia (for context and reader understanding) and information on pathways for help-seeking. This article is, overall, a good example of a sensitive, accurate and engaging reporting of a mental health issue, and one that aligns well with the national guidelines for mental health reporting.

Highly Commended: Hannah Temby and Nick Lupi  
University of Technology, Sydney "20 years of mental health reform "

Citation: This highly comprehensive investigative print feature is a good example of how the media can hold governments accountable and raise public awareness of policy around mental health service provision.

The authors conducted an intensive analysis of government reports to decipher the changes to the mental health system in Australia in the last 20 years. Throughout the piece, the authors break down some very complex information into a thorough examination of the facts that is readable by the layperson, thereby aiding in the general understanding of mental health issues. This piece is a very good attempt to increase awareness of the realities and challenges of the mental health system and to encourage debate of these issues with the aim of promoting understanding and dispelling stigma.

### **13. The Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma Prize for reporting on violence, disaster or trauma in society.**

Judges: Cait McMahon, managing director Dart Centre, and Professor Matthew Ricketson, of The University of Canberra

Winner : Joshua Kaloudonu from University of Western Sydney for "A punch and a kick on the streets...moving forward Australian style."

Citation: "A punch and a kick on the streets," - the writer gave readers a vivid sense of what it feels like to be violently assaulted by gaining an interview with a survivor who spoke candidly about his experience. The interview subject was portrayed with respect whilst allowing the reader to understand his experience without gratuitously focussing on the violence. A respectful and ethical piece of reporting.

Highly commended: Benjamin Ball, University of Technology, Sydney, for "The Uprooting."

### **14. Best Regular Student Publication**

Judges: Members of the JEAA Executive

Winner: ECUTV News, Edith Cowan University

Citation: The judges regarded this publication as an outstanding example of student-directed learning. The entry revealed high quality journalism from generating story ideas to final cut. The judges were impressed with the quality of writing production standards.

### **15. Best Occasional Student Publication**

Judge: Steve Waterson, editor, The Australian Weekend Magazine

Winner: Precinct, UTS

Citation: Precinct fulfils its brief extremely accurately: it is meant to engage with the local community, and it does that most effectively, with an appealing and relevant selection of stories. The writing is of professional standard: the articles showed thorough reporting skills and thorough editing, and a

surprisingly high proportion of them could sit comfortably in mainstream publications without changing a word. I found the magazine easy to navigate, with a smart, clean layout. Its use of photography is bold, striking and, I was pleased to see, occasionally provocative. Precinct stands out from its competitors in this category in the different weight, and hence different display, given to the stories. Knowing how much space (or time) and how many words to allocate to a story is a crucial part of editing, and Precinct shows mature and sound judgement in this area. I found it hard to remember that this is a student magazine, and congratulate the young people who put it together; I expect to see many of them register many more such successes in their careers.

Highly commended: Noongar Dandjoo, Curtin University

Citation: I was impressed by the lightness of touch with which the students handled these stories. Television viewers are used to seeing bleak documentaries on the plight of Aboriginal people, so it was refreshing to see the challenges of the Noongar community addressed with such a bright and positive spirit. The subject matter was colourful and thoughtfully chosen, and I liked the idea of following up filmed reports with a short interview in the studio. The shows were informative and engaging, and I hope will inspire others to realise that there is more to indigenous Australia than they see in the mainstream media.

#### **16. Best Online Publication**

Judge: Ben Naparstek, editor, The Monthly

Winner: Reportage Online, UTS

Citation: Reportage Online stood out for the depth and range of its coverage, and its smart and user-friendly design that dynamically harnesses the multimedia potential of the Internet. It demonstrates how online publication, far from marking the end of investigative reportage, offers exciting new opportunities for hard-hitting stories, particularly on non-mainstream subjects.

### **Special Awards judged by members of the JEAA Executive**

#### **Best Story**

Winner: Joshua Gale of AUT, for his story 'Auckland's Dirty Story'

Citation: The Executive had great difficulty making a decision among a group of excellent stories across all media. They varied from the number of people who had worked on each and in the length of time they had to produce their stories – which made it even harder. The winner though, is outstanding because the reporter found an important local story and thoroughly researched a sensitive issue. So it was a great story well handled.

## The Dr Charles Stuart Prize for Best Student Publication

Winner: Reportage Online

Citation: The judges described this as an outstanding student publication. This innovative site indicates the future of journalism is in good hands. The student publication combines excellent stories, high quality production standards and innovative interactive tools.