

OSSIE AWARDS FOR STUDENT JOURNALISM 2011 WINNERS

There were 140 entries from 16 universities into the 2011 Ossie Awards.

Best Print News Story (\$200) by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

Judged by: Glen Stanaway, Editor in Chief, Sunday and Daily Telegraph and Steve Howard, Group Managing Editor, News Ltd

Winner: **Michael Cox, University of Western Sydney**
'Sam's Last Plank'

Comments: We thought it was an excellent and thorough news report that showed initiative, consulted many sources, was comprehensive and used all available media platforms to not only present strongly in print but also allowed the story to be debated and considered further digitally.

Highly commended: Kara Irving, La Trobe University

'Fury at 'perve' group on Facebook'

Comments: A strong scoop on Facebook privacy concerns and a very good and timely issue.

Best Broadcast News Story (\$200) by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

Judged by: Amy Sambrooke, former ABC Producer

Winner: **Clare Hunter, Queensland University of Technology**
'Grantham Plans'

Comments: Clare Hunter's news story about the land-swap arrangements in the town of Grantham following the horrendous floods of January 2011 was a professional and well crafted one. Clare's scripting was thoughtful and true to the news style, and she expertly weaved together the use of file footage and location reporting. Clare has a very strong and authoritative broadcast presence. Clare's story stood out because it was of such a high calibre that it could have been broadcast in any bulletin on any major network. Well done.

Highly commended: Emily Glover, Edith Cowan University

'Marine Parks'

Best Broadcast Current Affairs or Issues Based Story (\$200) by an Undergraduate or a Postgraduate Student

Judged by: Amy Sambrooke, former ABC Producer

Winner: **Esther Han, University of Technology, Sydney**
'The North Korean Double Standard'

Comments: Esther Han's story was a unique and compelling piece of long-form radio journalism on life inside Kim Jong-il's North Korea. Esther demonstrated great strength in scripting and in thoughtful editing throughout this complex and lengthy radio documentary. The choice of interview talent was excellent, and Esther demonstrated a fresh and creative approach by having the story told through the prism of Australian aid workers who have first-hand experience dealing with the poverty and human rights abuses that are occurring in North Korea. Esther took on a big task

with this story, and it is to her credit that she produced such a professional and fascinating report on what is largely a hidden issue. I understand that this story was broadcast on ABC Radio National's Correspondent's Report, and was also reworked into a shorter report which was broadcast on the ABC's esteemed AM program. This is testament to the high quality of Esther's work.

Highly commended: Colin Cosier, University of Technology, Sydney
'Tracking Baltimore's Addicts'

Best Feature Article (Print) (\$200) by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

Judged by: *Glen Stanaway, Editor in Chief, Sunday and Daily Telegraph and Steve Howard, Group Managing Editor, News Ltd*

Winner: **Monique Fischle, Charles Sturt University**
'What you didn't know about the HPV vaccine'

Comments: This was a thought provoking piece involving a lot of research and broke new ground in revealing the dangers of possible side effects and how many women were in the dark about this. This was an example of how one friend's story could be turned into an investigation that every woman needs to be aware of and is deserving of greater community debate.

Best Feature Article (Online) (\$200) by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

Judged by: *Linda Drummond, Editor, www.birth.com.au*

Winner: **Lisa Thomas, Edith Cowan University**
'Chinese Furriers are Barking Mad'

Comments: This article is the ideal example of what works well as an on-line piece. This is a well-crafted piece that's timely, informative and also offers a topic of sufficient interest to draw the reader in. Well written, intelligently researched and capable of maintaining the reader's interest from the opening par and enticing them to scroll down to the end – this piece is a well-deserved winner.

Highly commended: Paul Farrell, University of Technology, Sydney
'Dissent on the record'

Comments: This piece is well-researched and beautifully written. The subject matter is compelling and is well-suited to the on-line medium.

Best Online Story (\$200) by an undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

Judged by: *Peter Jones, Online Editor, Fairfax Community Newspapers*

Winner: **Paul Farrell, University of Technology, Sydney**
'Dissent on the record'

Comments: Pushing boundaries, stepping over the lines of accepted behaviour and even placing one's own liberty at risk does not guarantee good journalism. Yet, there are some stories that must be gathered, nurtured, stolen or spirited away from behind a veil of secrecy before being told. The winner of this award has gone to great lengths to present the story of a group of young people who have defied the cultural norms of the society in which they live. In doing so he has taken risks. This award however,

was not judged on the degree of personal risk encountered by its recipient. This award is presented for the best online story, and among a field of entries which are of the highest standard.

Highly commended: Alexander Winkler, Auckland University of Technology, NZ
Pacific Islands Forum Coverage - 'From diplomatic sterility of windowless Forum room to vibrant Cloud, a mixed bag'

Highly commended: Rachel Kramer, Queensland University of Technology
'A collection of hastily formed opinions: Senate committee rejects "flawed changes"'

Best Story by an International Student (\$200)

Judged by: Mark Dennis, Group Managing Editor, Fairfax Community Newspapers

Winner: Marina Freri, University of Technology, Sydney
'Senator Mary Jo Fisher on life, the NBN and everything'

Comments: Marina's profile and interview with Senator Fisher does an excellent job of weaving the personal, the political and the issue together. After reading the article you get a clearer idea about many of the on-going issues involved and the politics that continue with the introduction of the National Broadband Network. It is an easy read and an informative one: the best type.

Highly commended: Steffen Stubager, Monash University
'Flood aftermath in Rochester: It just hasn't sunk in yet'

Comments: Nice insight into a tragedy through the eyes of the residents.

Best use of Convergent Media ((\$200)

Judged by: Peter Jones, Online Editor, Fairfax Community Newspapers

Winner: University of Technology, Sydney (Elise Dalley, Chief Reporter and Nicole Gooch, Production)
'Pure Plastiky: A multimedia project about the bottled water industry by students at the University of Technology, Sydney'
<http://www.gejiplasticbottles.com/>

Comments: The winner of this category has embraced journalism in all of its modern forms. They have created an online platform using a freely available content management system and have worked as individuals, and as a team drawing on resources from around the world to present a concise, well documented and multifaceted study of an issue that is significant to us both as individuals, and as citizens of this planet. The presentation of information is both innovative and engaging, and has been gathered using a variety of techniques and from a range of sources. The inclusion of a social media component (twitter) and story tags also help to make the site more attractive to the reader.

Highly commended: Jackelyn Norris and Dimity Carcary, James Cook University
'Copping it sweet'

Comments: A well researched and documented story which centres on the issues faced by cane growers and the industry body through which their produce is sold on the international market after a disastrous year for the sugarcane harvest. This story

refreshingly free of the emotive language and presentation which can mar this type of coverage.

Highly commended: Ella Rubeli, University of Technology, Sydney

‘Continental Drift: Stories from Sudan’

Comments: A beautifully crafted emotional documentary that uses photographic images and hand drawn animation to illustrate her subject’s stories of life as refugees in the time of the Sudanese political and humanitarian crisis.

Best Photojournalism (\$200) (Undergraduate or Postgraduate) (judged on the merit of both the photographs and accompanying text)

Judged by: John Veage, Chief Photographer, Fairfax Community Newspapers

Winner: Paige Hortin, La Trobe University

‘Our beautiful gift was wrapped in ugly paper’

Comments: The most endearing and human story. It gave a common and everyday occurrence a real connection and made it an interesting and thoughtful exercise.

Highly commended: Martine Hoff-Jensen, University of Technology, Sydney

‘Never-ending love’

Dr Charles Stuart Prize for best student publications (For publications in any medium)

Judged by: Linda Drummond, editor, www.birth.com.au, former editor, Body and Soul magazine, Sunday Telegraph.

Winner: Sydneysider 2010, Macleay College

Comments: The standard for best student publication was extremely high, and choosing a winner wasn’t easy. However, Sydneysider from Macleay College stood out for a number of reasons. The breadth of articles was extraordinary and all were finely honed and perfectly fit for publication. No articles felt like fillers, all read as though they had been crafted by passionate, young journalists. The words, images and design all work together as a cohesive team to create a high quality publication with an abundance of interesting reading material.

Highly commended: Frock, Paper, Scissors, Queensland University of Technology

Comments: From the clever title to the fashion-forward layout, this magazine stands out. It’s sharp, it’s clever and hits its demographic spot on. A worthy highly-commended publication.

Hunter Institute Response Ability Prize for mental health reporting (\$200) (Any medium)

Judged by: Siobhain Lowthe and Marc Bryant, Hunter Institute of Mental Health

Winner: Rogini Moorthi, Edith Cowan University

‘More than just the university blues’

Comments: This well researched print feature explored the issue of depression as it is experienced in the university environment from a variety of perspectives. The author used their writing skills and journalistic intuition to probe deeper into the issue of depression among young adults in the university environment, providing detailed

background, context and facts, warning signs and symptomatology, personal stories of recovery and help-seeking information. Through this story, the author used clear and comprehensive information from reputable sources as well as individual recounts to demonstrate that depression is a serious but common and treatable illness. Whilst destigmatising the experience of students living with depression through a factual portrayal of how symptoms impact life and studies, the author simultaneously distinguishes symptoms from other stresses or moods experienced by students at university so as to protect against myths and misunderstandings.

Highly commended: Chloe Booker-Latham, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
(Untitled)

Comments: This brief news article used two different angles to explore the ways in which stereotypes and misconceptions about disordered eating behaviours can be impediments to help-seeking for people living with these conditions. Combining a mix of hard and soft reports, the author sought to clarify the myths, misunderstanding and stereotypes that are sometimes associated with eating disorders, and offered facts and information to audiences to improve community understanding.

The Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma Prize for reporting on violence, disaster or trauma in society (\$200)

Judged by: Cait McMahon, Alex Wake and Aly Walsh

Winner: **Jerrie Demasi, Edith Cowan University**
'Fire Aftermath'

Comments: Jerrie's radio report following the W.A. fires this year was a sensitive and thorough piece of radio. The reporter allowed the survivor to tell the story, whilst adding an appropriate frame around the survivor's words without sensationalising them in any way. It was an engaging, ethical and newsworthy piece of reporting that also included appropriate community information around property insurance and challenged the amount of warning residents were given before the fires. This information was respectfully woven alongside the survivor's personal story. An excellent piece of reporting. Well done Jerrie.

Highly commended: Tessarne Rowley, University of Western Sydney
'Sticks and stones may break my bones – words will kill me'

Comments: Tessarne tackles the seriousness of cyber bullying by following the story of Daani as she spirals from a bubbly, engaged teenager into a world of depression and eventual suicide. Tessarne draws the reader into the world of Daani's family and appropriately questions the response of the mental health system to deal with teenagers such as Daani, and to support their families. The author highlights in a thorough and considerate way a traumatic issue that will be ongoing for contemporary society.

Sally A. White Prize for Investigative Journalism (\$200) (Any medium)

Judged by: Mark Dennis, Group Managing Editor, Fairfax Community Newspapers

Winner: **Lisa Roth, Edith Cowan University**
'Series on the effect of GM Canola in WA'

Comments: Lisa's series of reports, starting with the impact of a truck spill of genetically modified canola and carrying on into an investigation of Monsanto's role, the wider effect of GM crops and even into the ethics of long-term use, were at a

standard of which any seasoned journalist would be proud. Lisa has done her research and the articles are heavy with information but not at the expense of the human voice: she constantly reminds us that there are people's futures involved here and gives them a say.

Highly commended: Alexa Gordon, Queensland University of Technology
'Child sexual assault victims left in the dark'

Comments: A difficult subject told well.