



The 2020 Mid-Year **Celebration of Journalism**

Recognising diversity, independence and
emerging talent in Australian journalism

#walkleys

Program

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Our
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MEAA HAS BEEN THE PROUD TRUSTEE OF THE WALKLEY AWARDS FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Thanks to all our hard-working judges

Shauna Anderson
Honey, Nine

Russell Anderson
*National Ethnic
and Multicultural
Broadcasters' Council*

Nicola Berkovic
The Australian

Nick Bhasin
10 Daily

Katrina Blowers
Seven News

James Brickwood
*The Sydney Morning
Herald*

Meredith Clisby
The Canberra Times

Amanda Collinge
ABC

Caitlin Crowley
WIN News

Ross Dagan
Ten

Lisa Davies
*The Sydney Morning
Herald*

Georgina Dent
Women's Agenda

Tim Duggan
Junkee

Farz Edraki
ABC Life

Ben Eltham
New Matilda

Monique Farmer
Nine

Melissa Gaudron
Marie Claire Australia

Ed Giles
The Project, Ten

Heath Harrison
Newcastle Herald

Steve Jackson
The Australian

Vivienne Kelly
Mumbrella

Patrick Keneally
Guardian Australia

Stella Lauri
WIN News

Isabel Lo
Freelance

Clay Lucas
The Age

David Munk
Guardian Australia

Heidi Murphy
3AW

Julie Oberin
*Australian Women
Against Violence
Alliance (AWAVA)*

Helen O'Neill
Freelance

Cathy Osmond
*The Weekend Australian
Magazine*

Elise Potaka
Insight, SBS

Stephanie Raethel
news.com.au

Sally Roberts
SBS

Lane Sainty
BuzzFeed Australia

Margot Saville
Freelance

Cathie Schnitzerling
ABC

Tory Shepherd
The Advertiser

Brihony Speed
ABC

Georgia Spokes
ABC

Simone Sutcliffe
SBS

Joel Tozer
60 Minutes, Nine

Lisa Whitby
ABC

Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism June 17, 2020

PRESENTATION ORDER

Student Journalist of the Year

•

June Andrews Award for Industrial Relations Reporting
in memory of Helen O'Flynn and Alan Knight

•

June Andrews Award for Freelance Journalist of the Year

•

June Andrews Award for Women's Leadership in Media

•

Our Watch Award
(managed by The Walkley Foundation)

•

Media Diversity Australia Award
(managed by The Walkley Foundation)

•

June Andrews Award for Arts Journalism

•

Pascall Prize for Arts Criticism
(managed by The Walkley Foundation)

•

Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards

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A message from the Chief Executive



The Walkley Foundation acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging."

Welcome to the 2020 Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism. We are honoured to pioneer a truly remarkable event through a virtual lens this year as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope you are all safe and well.

The Walkley Foundation celebrates and supports great Australian journalism. Our awards set the industry benchmark for excellence and define best practice in the craft nationally.

Our Mid-Year Celebration was established to recognise the work of young journalists and specialist writers not included in the Walkley Awards. They are not Walkley Awards, they have a different trophy, but they are determined according to the same standards of excellence, expert judging and rigorous processes. To avoid duplication with the Walkley Awards held at the end of year, we have taken this opportunity to honour one of our significant benefactors and rebrand these awards in her name. June Andrews was the sister-in-law of our founder, Sir William Gaston Walkley, and now her legacy will be commemorated by honouring excellence in the craft. The awards are:

- The June Andrews Award for Women's Leadership in Media
- The June Andrews Award for Freelance Journalist of the Year
- The June Andrews Award for Industrial Relations Reporting
- The June Andrews Award for Arts Journalism

In this program we also announce several awards we managed on behalf of other organisations, specifically Our Watch, Media Diversity Australia and the Geraldine Pascall Foundation.

The role of journalism in informing the public has never been more important. Journalism is key to supplying credible information and combating myths, rumours and disinformation. This has been vital in recent months as journalists have dug deep into the heart of communities battling bushfires across our terrain and braving COVID-19 from our living rooms. These awards also herald the achievements of a new generation, as our craft embraces the digital era now shaping the way stories are told and consumed. The journalism we recognise through our Mid-Year Celebration is innovative, professional and courageous. It does our industry proud.

The Walkley Foundation elevates the craft of journalism through our professional development program. Our scholarships, fellowships and mentoring have had an enormous impact, providing the next generation of journalists with the skills and opportunities needed to ensure that the future is in good hands. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 we have had to delay the announcement of both our scholarship and grant recipients, something that would normally form part of this program. But rest assured these programs will continue, with more opportunities available in the coming year as we head back to our newsrooms and offices.

On behalf of the Foundation, I offer heartfelt congratulations to all our finalists and winners.



Louisa Graham
Chief Executive, The Walkley Foundation

Will you stand with us?

The Walkley Foundation is committed to lifting the craft of journalism through professional development.

Our priority funding areas are

Grants

Mentoring

Walkley Digital Archive:
Safeguarding a legacy of reporting

Scholarships, fellowships and
leadership programs

Show your support with a donation at
www.walkleys.com/donate



The
Walkley
Public Fund

Celebrating and supporting
great Australian journalism

June Andrews Award for Industrial Relations Reporting

Presented in memory of journalists Helen O'Flynn and Alan Knight, the Award for Industrial Relations Reporting is an all-media award for outstanding journalism that captures the complexities and the importance of a robust industrial relations ecosystem for Australian workers and businesses.

WINNERS: Ben Schneiders and Nick McKenzie, *The Age*,
"John Setka, domestic violence and the unions"



Judges' comment: These explosive scoops on the CFMMEU's John Setka caused a national political firestorm lasting weeks, plunged the organisation into crisis, and sparked battles between Labor and Australia's most militant union. The stories were only possible because of years of experience from both Schneiders and McKenzie in dealing with high-level industry and legal contacts.



Adele Ferguson, *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*,
"Grill'd accused of using traineeships to exploit workers"



Ben Schneiders and Royce Millar, *The Age*,
"Anatomy of wage theft"

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With philanthropic support
in memory of Emeritus
Professor Alan Knight
provided by Dr Kathy Egea

June Andrews Award for Freelance Journalist of the Year

This award recognises the unique contribution that freelance journalists make to the future of the industry across all media platforms. The winner is chosen on the basis of journalistic excellence and will receive two tickets to the Walkley Awards Gala Dinner.

WINNER: Karishma Vyas, 101 East - Al Jazeera English and Foreign Correspondent, ABC
“The War on Afghan Women,” “Afghanistan: The Healers” and “Behind Enemy Lines”



Judges’ comment: This was brilliant storytelling in two countries - Afghanistan and America. Vyas managed to access some of the most sensitive areas of Afghan society, bringing to the screen extraordinary people doing extraordinary things. Her films were compassionate and thoughtful but also hard-hitting. Her despatch from New York was jaw-dropping, not only for the access to the people deeply involved in combating the COVID-19 crisis, but also in the way she allowed those characters to chronicle the dreadful chaos of New York’s response to the coronavirus outbreak.



Johanna Bell, StoryProjects, “BIRDS EYE VIEW”



Nina Funnell, news.com.au, The Mercury and NT News, “Let Her Speak”

SUPPORTED BY:



June Andrews Award for Women's Leadership in Media

This national award honours and celebrates women who are making a contribution to gender equality. It recognises outstanding journalistic contribution to the coverage of gender equality and the full participation of women in society. The award acknowledges reporting that demonstrates significant innovation, enterprise or courage in raising awareness of issues, and reflects the important role of the media in improving community perceptions around issues of gender equality.

WINNERS: Joanna Lester, Madeleine Hetherton and Rebecca Barry, Media Stockade, NITV and SBS On Demand, "Power Meri"



Judges' comment: Power Meri is a powerful depiction of PNG's first female rugby team, who overcome discrimination and social media scorn to finally win the respect of their nation. Given the dominance of negative stories about PNG's crime and violence rates, it's a refreshing account of the power of women to

challenge and change attitudes, in politics and sport. The filmmakers clearly worked hard to build trust and gained exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to the players. The film has had significant national and global impact.



Belinda Hawkins and Angela Leonardi, Australian Story, ABC, "An Innocent Abroad"



Inga Ting and ABC team, ABC News, "Rough justice: How police are failing survivors of sexual assault"

SUPPORTED BY:



Our Watch Award for Excellence in Reporting on Violence against Women and Children

MANAGED BY THE WALKLEY FOUNDATION ON BEHALF OF OUR WATCH

On average, one woman is killed each week in Australia by a current or former partner. Research demonstrates that attitudes to gender equality, and to violence against women, play a major role in influencing rates of gendered violence. There is a clear link between media reporting and community attitudes to violence against women. Journalists play a vital role in shaping the public conversation and raising awareness of the true extent of this problem. The Our Watch Award for Excellence in Reporting on Violence against Women and Children exists to reward journalists for playing a part in changing these attitudes and stopping the violence before it starts.

WINNER: Nina Funnell, *News.com.au*, *The Mercury* and *NT News*, “Let Her Speak”



Judges’ comment: An exceptionally impressive, impactful multi-media campaign that was evidently the culmination of a comprehensive, co-ordinated investigation. Thoroughly researched and highly sensitive, the judges were particularly struck by Funnell’s regard for context, the drivers of gender-based violence and the agency of individual survivors. The tangible reform outcomes achieved reflect this campaign’s power and influence.



Annabel Hennessy, *The West Australian*, “Kill or Be Killed? The First Chapter: The incarceration of Jody Gore”



Kathy Marks, *The Weekend Australian Magazine*, “Solomon Islands battles epidemic of family violence”

SUPPORTED BY:



Media Diversity Australia Award

MANAGED BY THE WALKLEY FOUNDATION ON BEHALF OF MEDIA DIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

The Media Diversity Australia Award honours journalists who are making an outstanding contribution through their reporting or coverage of diverse people or issues in Australia. This includes culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and people with disability (PWD). The award celebrates reporting that demonstrates notable courage in raising awareness of CALD and/or PWD experiences and perspectives, as well as innovation in the telling of these stories. It recognises the significance of media coverage in providing nuanced reporting which serves to alter perceptions and attitudes, challenge stereotypes and fight misinformation.

WINNERS: Mahmood Fazal and Rebecca Metcalf, Audible Originals,
“No Gangsters in Paradise”



Judges' comment: No Gangsters in Paradise provides an honest and raw look into an often marginalised Australian community. It's a deep dive into some very dramatic events and circumstances from many years ago, the context around which remains extremely relevant today.



Johanna Bell and The Birds Eye View Team, StoryProjects,
“BIRDS EYE VIEW”



Corrin Grant and Michael Hing, SBS,
“Where are you really from?”

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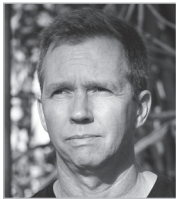
Through the support of the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, the winners of these awards will each receive \$5000 in prize money.



June Andrews Award for Arts Journalism

The June Andrews Award for Arts Journalism recognises a significant contribution in reporting, writing, news-breaking and analysis of arts issues. This may include profiles of artists, features and investigations, reporting on the structures and personalities involved in the creation of contemporary culture, and examination of the creative arena.

WINNER: Steve Dow, *Meanjin*, *The Saturday Paper* and *Guardian Australia*, "Stream Drama," "Acts of Faith" and "A Bungul, a Procession, an Overnight Vigil"



Judges' comment: Steve Dow submitted an outstanding portfolio of arts journalism, showing impressive range and incisive investigative ability. Dow's feature about the Australian screen industry in the age of streaming conveyed a complex policy dilemma with depth and precision, while his reportage of a G. Yunupingu tribute concert explored sensitive cultural issues with tender, lyrical prose.



Hagar Cohen and the Background Briefing Team, *Background Briefing*, *ABC*, "Under the Hammer"



Rosemary Neill, *The Australian*, "Brought to book: Universities' new cultural cringe"

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The Pascall Prize for Arts Criticism

MANAGED BY THE WALKLEY FOUNDATION

The Pascall Prize for Arts Criticism celebrates the unique contribution of critics to our cultural landscape, and the specialist, detailed knowledge they draw on to contextualise works of art. Criticism includes both reviews responding to the work itself and deeper criticism placing work in the context of the artist's oeuvre, specific genres and/or the current social/political/cultural landscape. Judges will consider critical thinking, balanced, rigorous argument and evaluation, depth of knowledge and ability to contextualise, and engaging, illuminating voices.

WINNER: Mireille Juchau, *newyorker.com* and *The Monthly*, "How Dreams Change Under Authoritarianism," "Twilight Knowing: Jenny Offill's *Weather*" and "Missing Witnesses: Valeria Luiselli's *Lost Children's Archive*"



Judges' comment: In a strong and diverse field of entries, Juchau stood out for her insightful contextualisation of the work, elegant storytelling and depth of research. The Sydney-based novelist and critic's standout review revisited a 1966 book about dreaming in Nazi Germany and considered the ways authoritarian regimes - past and present - can impact the collective unconscious.



Jack Callil, *The Lifted Brow*, "You But Not: A Review of Esmé Weijun Wang's *The Collected Schizophrenias*"



Melinda Harvey, *Sydney Review of Books*, "Verisimilitude"

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2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards

The Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards reward the hard work of our most outstanding young Australian journalists. In 2020, these awards recognise those aged 28 and under who demonstrate excellence in the fundamental tenets of the craft, as well as the ability to present distinctive and original journalism that pushes the boundaries of the profession.

To make the awards more accessible and valuable to a diverse range of young reporters, since 2017 a philanthropic grant from the Jibb Foundation has helped the Walkleys lower the entry fee. This grant also supports a fabulous prize for the overall winner of the Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Award: a two-week trip to US newsrooms (flights included), and a mentorship program to further boost category winners' careers. In 2020 this prize will include *Buzzfeed*, *The New York Times*, *Columbia Journalism Review* and Quartz Media.

The awards are presented in seven categories. A panel of judges—comprising senior journalists from a range of backgrounds—nominate three finalists and one winner in each of seven categories. The Walkley Judging Board then choose the Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year from category winners.

The 2019 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year, Oliver Gordon, visited newsrooms including *Buzzfeed*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Quartz*, *The Marshall Project*, *The New York Times* and Twitter as part of his prize.

“Every journalist has their own way of being a journalist, and every organisation has their own way of engaging with the world around it. Being exposed to so many different people working in so many different places gave me a lot of new ideas, not just about what to cover, but about how to cover it, and why.”

OLIVER GORDON, 2019 WALKLEY YOUNG AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR



MAJOR PARTNER:



WINNER: 2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year

Annabel Hennessy, *The West Australian*, “Kill or Be Killed?
The First Chapter: The incarceration of Jody Gore”

Annabel Hennessy is a federal political reporter from *The West Australian* newspaper and is based at the paper’s Canberra bureau in parliament house. She started her career at Perth’s *Sunday Times* in 2014 as a real estate reporter before moving to Sydney to work for *The Daily Telegraph* in 2016. In 2018 she spent three months working in the UK for News Corp as a foreign correspondent.

Judges’ comment: The judges felt Annabel Hennessy’s work deserves this honour, because it demonstrated true excellence at every turn. She discovered the thread of a story, teased it out, chased it relentlessly, and brought it to public attention. Her story telling was factual and compassionate, moving deftly between the human, legal, and political elements of this story. And the impact of her journalism has been immense – a woman freed from prison, and laws re-written.

Congratulations Annabel.



MAJOR PARTNER:



2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards

Shortform Journalism

This award recognises the diverse skills of the journalist – not just for breaking news, but for all the other elements that make a great story under deadline pressure, including perseverance, writing ability, accuracy, ethics, research, impact and great storytelling. The emphasis of this award is on solid, gripping reporting and outstanding individual (or small team) efforts in covering a news story. Entries involving scoops and/or a body of work showing tenacious coverage of one story will be viewed particularly well.

WINNER: Luke Henriques-Gomes, *Guardian Australia*, “Robodebt leaks expose botched scheme’s failure”



Judges’ comment: With deft analysis, gripping reporting and a determination to work his contacts to obtain leaked ministerial and cabinet documents, Henriques-Gomes demonstrated the sophistication of a much more seasoned journalism veteran. His explosive reporting, exposing the controversial robodebt program, shone a light on the devastating impact it had on thousands of Australia’s most vulnerable. Henriques-Gomes’ tenacity in the face of bureaucratic stonewalling spearheaded public awareness of this scheme, which has since been found to be unlawful.



Natassia Chrysanthos, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, “New Year’s Eve bushfire coverage”



Michael Fowler, *The Age*, “Travel ban prevented Chinese mum from seeing dying son - then government grants visa exemption”

SUPPORTED BY:



2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards Longform Feature or Special

This award focuses on narrative and/or investigative journalism skills and covers longform print/text pieces, video or television features and documentaries, radio/audio features and documentaries, including podcasts; and large multimedia projects, including those centred on data journalism. Other elements, such as social media, may form part of the project. Judges will look particularly for work which shines a light, tells a compelling story or provides in-depth analysis and investigation.

WINNER: Ella Archibald-Binge, *The Feed*, SBS Viceland, “Australia’s stolen wages shame”



Judges’ comment: The story shone a light on a chapter of the nation’s history which many Australians may not know much about, revealing the scale of unpaid wages to Indigenous workers and the impact on successive generations. Archibald-Binge’s established relationships with class action claimants and lawyers gave her access to the remote Aboriginal community of Hope Vale, resulting in powerful and moving interviews with young people and elders. Great characters and storytelling, beautiful pictures and slick production.



Avani Dias, *Hack, triple j*, ABC, “The colleague, the girl, the police: Student framed and imprisoned over terror offences tells whole story for the first time”



Amber Schultz, *Crikey Inq*, “Celibacy and obedience: Life inside a seminary”

SUPPORTED BY: **The Sydney Morning Herald**
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THE AGE
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2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards

Coverage of Community and Regional Affairs

This category is open only to journalists working in the suburban or regional media and recognises their role in reporting on and informing their local communities. Regional media shall be taken to include all suburban outlets within major metro centres through to regional and remote outlets. Entrants must be based in the communities they are covering. The particular importance of stories to the community or region concerned will count as a judging criterion.

WINNER: Sherryn Groch, *The Canberra Times*, “Culture of fear: Canberra private school engulfed by bullying allegations”



Judges’ comment: This meticulous investigation demonstrated determined reporting and courageous storytelling. Groch has built significant trust with a wide range of sources, allowing her to shine a light on a toxic culture that was hurting a school community. These pieces were extensively researched and highly engaging. It’s a fine example of journalism holding the powerful to account, on behalf of those who’ve suffered in silence.



Matt Bamford, *ABC Online, PM, ABC Radio, ABC News WA*, “Balgo”



Chantelle Francis, *The Weekly Times*, “Animal activists”

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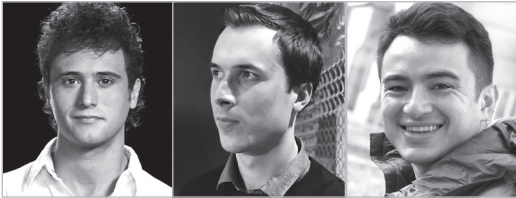
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2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards

Visual Storytelling

This award replaces the photography and television/video journalism categories and emphasises the use of camera or graphic skills (sometimes combined with audio) to tell a story. It includes still photography, TV and video journalism and camerawork, and can include sound slides and photo film. It also covers artwork, which includes illustrations, digital photo illustrations, cartoons, or information graphics displaying creativity, innovation and style, combined with artistic technique. Criteria include storytelling, courage, public impact, creativity, innovative use of technology, technical ability and resourcefulness. Entries can include mixed production teams.

WINNERS: Marty Smiley, Jack Tulleners and Pat Forrest, SBS TV On Demand and Online, "Christian Democratic Party"



Judges' comment: This entry was an immediate standout for the judges. Original, creative and compelling. The storytelling choices - including interesting interview locations, plotting the story alongside chess moves, and getting one of the talent to provide the soundtrack - all added

to a theatrical and engaging documentary-style piece. The entry made politics interesting and accessible to a younger audience.



Dion Georgopoulos, The Canberra Times,
"Australian bushfire coverage"



Tom Joyner, 7.30, ABC, "Australia's summer of fires"

SUPPORTED BY:



2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards

Public Service Journalism

This award aims to celebrate journalism's role in informing citizens as part of our democratic system. It is about journalism that aims to make a difference, with tangible public benefit to the community. Entrants can submit a single piece of work or up to three pieces of related work.

WINNER: Annabel Hennessy, *The West Australian*, "Kill or Be Killed? The First Chapter: The incarceration of Jody Gore"



Judges' comment: Hennessy's investigation shone a light on the justice system, leading to the release of a woman imprisoned for killing her abusive ex-partner and changes to legislation for domestic violence victims. Her reporting was a powerful example of how journalism can make a difference.



Luke Henriques-Gomes, *Guardian Australia*,
"Reporting on Australia's welfare system"



Marty Smiley, *SBS TV On Demand and Online*,
"Service to migrant community"

SUPPORTED BY:

News Corp
Australia

2020 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards

Student Journalist of the Year

This award is open to undergraduate and postgraduate students. Work must have been either published or submitted for assessment. Entrants must be full-time students with the majority of their time dedicated to studying. The award winner and finalists are chosen on the basis of journalistic excellence, including newsworthiness, research, writing, production, incisiveness, impact, ethics, originality, innovation and creative flair.

WINNER: Andre Nassiri, *University of New South Wales* and *newsworthy.org.au*, “The dark side of Africa’s ‘poster child’” and “Who wins when Rwanda plays the ‘genocide guilt card’”



Judges’ comment: Nassiri’s submission deals with complex issues - including decades of politics, personalities and power - in a way which makes them accessible. The articles use personal experiences well and weave them in with geopolitical observations, interviews, quotes, statistics and facts - not easy to do. An excellent and fascinating read.



Nibir Khan, *University of Queensland* and *ABC*, “Rohingya refugee families torn apart as loved ones trapped on opposite sides of the world”



Andrea Thiis-Evensen, *Monash University*, *Mojo News* and *ABC News*, “‘It was the worst day of our lives’: Bereaved parents say we must talk about youth suicide” and “Melbourne women claim they are being targeted by fake rideshare drivers”

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Marina Go, chair

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Michael Janda

Karen Percy

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Lenore Taylor

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Natalie Ahmat, *NITV News*

Michael Bachelard, *The Age*

Michael Brissenden, *4 Corners, ABC*

Patricia Karvelas, *ABC Radio National Drive*

Mags King, *The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age*

and *The Australian Financial Review*

Deborah Knight, *Nine*

Stella Lauri, *WIN Television*

John Lehmann, *The Australian*

Hamish Macdonald, *ABC and Network 10*

Mark Mallabone, *The West Australian*

Heidi Murphy, *Mornings with Neil Mitchell, 3AW693*

Bhakthi Puvanenthiran, *ABC Life*

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Walkley Foundation Limited
ABN 99 164 809 349
245 Chalmers St
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For Excellence in Journalism 2020

ENTRIES OPEN JULY 1

IMPORTANT DATES

Walkley Awards

Entries close at
midnight on Monday
August 31, 2020

General Finalist Announcements (Sydney, Melbourne)

Thursday October 15, 2020

Walkley Book Shortlist Announcement


Thursday November 5,
2020

65th Walkley Awards Gala Dinner (Tamworth)

Friday November 20,
2020 at the Tamworth
Regional Entertainment and
Convention Centre (TRECC)

**SEND US YOUR
BEST WORK AND
GO FOR GOLD!**

Visit walkleys.com
for award information



Congratulations to all finalists for the 2020 Mid-Year Celebration

Now more than ever, high-quality journalism is having a profound effect on the lives it touches. That's why we're proud to celebrate the 2020 Walkley Foundation Mid-Year Celebration finalists and winners. It is also why we are supporting the news industry through the Facebook Journalism Project with programs such as our COVID-19 Relief Fund and the Reader Revenue Accelerator. These initiatives are supporting news organisations as they continue to produce important, meaningful journalism and build sustainable newsrooms to serve and inform all Australians.



Read more about our collaboration with the news industry and highlights from our partners both in Australia and around the world at our online home: [**facebookjournalismproject.com**](https://facebookjournalismproject.com).