



REFLECTING ON 2021
Strength and stability amid uncertainty

**CELEBRATING AND SUPPORTING
GREAT AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISM**
All the 66th Walkley Awards
winners and finalists inside

Yearbook 2021



Thank you to our partners*

None of what we do would be possible without the tremendous support from our many partners who believe in the value of journalism. Underpinning this is the contribution from media organisations who come together collaboratively to support the Walkley Foundation.

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News Initiative



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THE AGE
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10 NEWS FIRST PROJECT

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MEAA HAS BEEN THE PROUD TRUSTEE OF THE
WALKLEY AWARDS FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS

SUPPORTERS AND BEQUESTORS: June Andrews; Bruce Connell; Quentin Dempster; Kym Druitt; Dr Kathy Egea in memory of Emeritus Professor Alan Knight; David Epstein; Julie Flynn; Marina Go and Graeme Pringle; Anita Jacoby; Kate Julius; Bob and Helen Lyon; Ian and Denise Macintosh; Jim Nolan; Penny O'Donnell; Margot O'Neill; OPR; Michael Robinson; Salesforce; Warren Scott; TNC Pacific Consulting; Sally Young. Anonymous (4).

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*Partners current as of February 2022

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in Lockdown". Vision (cosplayer Steve Alder-Goad)
trims a rose bush while his neighbour looks on.

About us

In a time when journalism is being challenged on all sides, the Walkley Foundation represents strength, stability and continuity.



The Foundation supports a strong, fair and diverse media that can fulfil its vital role in strengthening and sustaining our democracy.

We are the custodians of excellence in reporting in Australia, working independently and collaboratively with all media organisations to encourage best-practice, ethical journalism.

Encouraging excellence

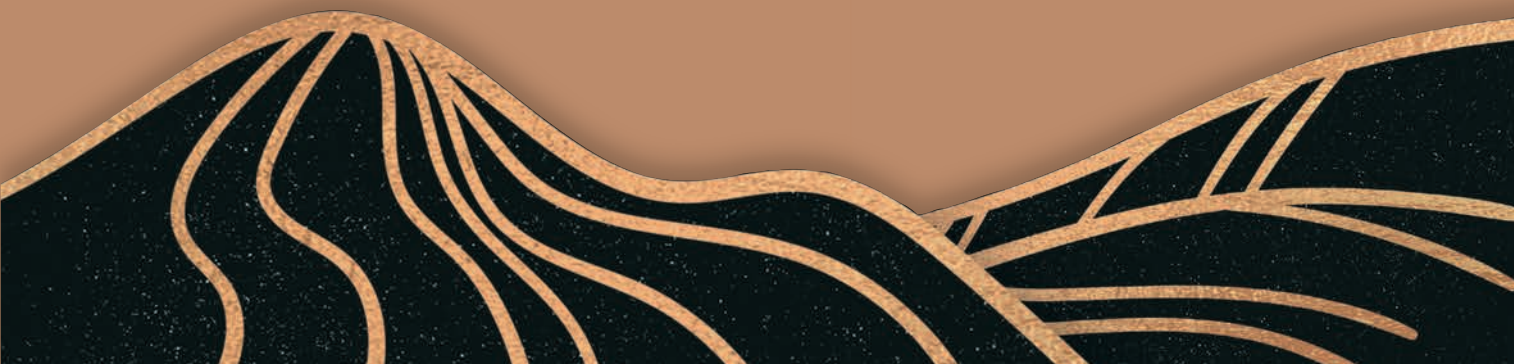
- The Walkley Awards
- Young Journalist Awards
- June Andrews Awards

Professional development

- Mentoring
- Scholarships and fellowships
- Training and masterclasses
- Leadership

Supporting and valuing journalism

- Communications and campaigns
- Partnered grants to support journalism
- Walkley digital archive



Our impact

The impact of the Walkley Foundation is felt in every corner of the media industry and the wider community.

We champion the role of journalism in society by raising awareness of the craft, promoting the profiles of journalists and their work, and publicly recognising the achievements of our peers. We work with industry partners to support professional development and increase opportunities for training and networking. These efforts are aimed at safeguarding the role of journalism in the present and sustaining this vital work into the future.

2020 Walkley Award winners



Community



9,795

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS



6,342

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



1,742

LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS



23.7k

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS



1,898

INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



4,258

MEDIUM
FOLLOWERS

Engagement

1,168

REGISTRATIONS

for Walkley Foundation
online events in 2021

228

REGISTRATIONS

for MEAA Code of
Ethics webinar series

283

REGISTRATIONS

for diversity
webinar series

Pathways to employment

100%

of scholarships (2018-
2021) resulted in full-time
employment in the media
industry within four months



60

have participated in
our mentoring program
(2018-2021)





Letter from the 2021 CEO, Louisa Graham

Foundation forges ahead stronger than ever

Deciding to leave the Walkley Foundation after a decade in management has not been easy, but with a great team in place the future is strong. 2021 has been my last year with the Foundation, and I am immensely proud to have led a committed team and driven significant achievements and growth over my four years as Chief Executive. The Foundation is in the best financial position it has ever been, with an equity base of \$2.4 million; this represents significant growth since I was appointed to this position in 2018.

Other achievements include working collaboratively with the media, governments, corporates, not-for-profits and philanthropists to grow and strengthen our funding base, with some of Australia's leading companies becoming our partners alongside loyal, long-standing supporters. Commitments to support the Walkley Awards from both the NSW and Queensland governments have been enduring and demonstrate that government can and should recognise quality and balanced journalism as a contribution to democracy.

The Foundation is a Deductible Gift Recipient and many philanthropists are joining our community, supporting programs that offer crucial professional development opportunities for journalists, encourage the next generation and foster diversity within the industry. Donations range from small monthly contributions to extraordinary gifts from June Andrews and the John B Fairfax family, who have recently pledged \$1 million over the next 10 years (see page 9).

The Walkley Awards are central to our mission to support and celebrate great Australian journalism. A highly regarded national awards program, they set the industry standard for ethical, best-practice journalism. Led by the Chair of the Walkley Judging Board, Lenore Taylor, editor of *Guardian Australia*, who stepped down in June 2021, we have worked hard to ensure the awards program is robust and have strengthened the judging process to elevate outstanding winners who reflect the industry's full breadth. There is increasing industry acceptance that the awards are hitting that mark. We welcomed Michael Brissenden, who recently retired from the ABC, as a director and our new Chair of the Judging Board, while Claire Harvey, editorial director of *The Australian*, continues as the Judging Board's Deputy Chair.

Our professional development programs are kicking goals and providing pathways to employment. Since 2018 we have implemented nine scholarship and fellowship programs, offering practical experience in newsrooms along with important mentoring and network development. One hundred per cent of these scholarships have resulted in employment within the media industry within four months.

In 2021, far from the return to "normality" we'd hoped for, COVID brought even more disruption. We've done our best to ensure the Foundation pivots to new forums, presenting discussions, webinars and masterclasses online that attracted a whopping 1,168 participants.

Along with building our brand, which is known for its integrity, we have established our reputation as a manager of programs to benefit and support the industry. Working with external organisations such as Our Watch, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Media Diversity Australia, Facebook and Google, we bring our proven administration skills and engagement with the industry to ensure these programs are managed independently of stakeholder interests.

Our work with Naked Communications and many wonderful journalists on the What Price Would You Pay public awareness campaign remains one of the collaborations I'm most proud of. It's a powerful example of how our industry, for all its competitiveness, can pull together to great effect and ask Australians to back quality journalism.

Many journalists give their time and expertise to make our work possible, and their contributions are at the heart of the Foundation's integrity and credibility. They judge the awards, sit on selection panels for scholarships, guide the next generation through mentorships, and serve →

The Walkley Awards are central to our mission to support and celebrate great Australian journalism.

- LOUISA GRAHAM

as directors or members of advisory committees. Thank you to all the journalists who support us, our board members and our partners.

After a distinguished two years in the role, Marina Go has stepped down as Chair of the Foundation. It has been a pleasure working with Marina, who has led the board to develop a clear strategic plan for the Foundation. You'll see that focus shining through the pages of this yearbook, as it underpins everything we do. Her successor, Adele Ferguson from *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian Financial Review*, will bring all the precision and tenacity of her eight-time Walkley-winning investigative journalism to the role.

After the year we've had, I think everybody is feeling ready to let their hair down a bit. To ensure the best chance of gathering in person, we moved the 66th Walkley Awards to February 2022.

The 67th Walkley Awards are scheduled for presentation later in 2022. The Walkleys bring the industry together and it's important to have this opportunity to gather and celebrate the hard work and big stories. And we are delighted to have Sydney as our host city, with the support of the NSW government, with a focus on showcasing community and regional journalism. This month, we also hosted the Walkley Regional Journalism Summit online, bringing together leaders and innovators and sharing the latest research and case studies from those on the ground.

None of this would be possible without the dedicated and motivated Walkley team. The Walkley Foundation has a big future in celebrating and supporting the very best of Australian journalism, and I wish Shona Martyn all the best as my successor.

It has been an honour to lead this great organisation. •

2021 Walkley Young
Australian Journalist of
the Year, Mridula Amin,
with John B Fairfax.



An extraordinary gift, a powerful legacy

The John B Fairfax family has pledged to support the Walkley Foundation's awards and professional development opportunities for young Australian journalists over the next 10 years with a gift of \$1 million.

Then Walkley Foundation chief executive Louisa Graham announced the contribution at the Foundation's Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism in Sydney in June 2021.

In 2008, the Walkley Foundation established the Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards to celebrate and encourage our rising stars.



2019 Young Australian Journalist of the Year Oliver Gordon with John B Fairfax.

The Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards comprise six categories, with all category winners in the running to win the ultimate award of Young Australian Journalist of the Year.

The John B Fairfax family, through its Jibb Foundation, has supported the awards since 2017. With the Jibb Foundation's contribution, the Walkley Foundation has lowered entry fees for young journalists, provided a mentoring program for category winners and supported the overall winner with a fully funded opportunity to visit newsrooms in the US.

From 2022, this financial contribution will sustain these awards for the next decade and also allow the Walkley Foundation to expand the professional development opportunities associated with winning a Young Australian Journalist of the Year Award.

John B Fairfax AO said: "We are extremely proud to be supporting an award that promotes excellence in journalism and encourages young Australian talent. We are also delighted to provide meaningful

support to the Walkley Foundation, which has consistently embodied the values of integrity and quality in the profession."

The Foundation's 2021 CEO Louisa Graham said: "This increased commitment is significant for the Walkley Foundation and the industry. The scale of this generosity echoes Sir William Walkley's founding donation, which set up the Walkley Awards 65 years ago, and his sister-in-law June Andrews' 2019 bequest to the Walkley Foundation.

"The Fairfax name has long been associated with the glorious history of Australian journalism. With this announcement the Fairfax legacy will be synonymous with a bright future for the next generation of Australia's best journalists.

"This is an extraordinary gift. It is a legacy that enshrines the principles of best practice and ethical journalism in our next generation of reporters," added Ms Graham. "Supporting young journalists reflects the culture that was started long ago by the Fairfax family in one of the country's best-known media empires. This is a relationship we are most proud of." •

What do you see as the role of philanthropy in supporting Australian journalism?

"Philanthropy can support journalism at a time when much of the traditional, commercial support has dissipated. An untied contribution to support journalism and maintain independence is important if we are to continue the 'fourth estate' approach so essential within our democracy." – JOHN B FAIRFAX AO



The Walkley Foundation's roadmap for the future

Strong governance and practical programs have set the Foundation on a path for success, writes 2021 Chair Marina Go.

We announced in 2021 that this would be my last year as Chair of the Walkley Foundation. It has been an honour to serve as Chair for two years, and I'm proud of the strategic roadmap I leave for the Foundation.

It was very important to me during my tenure to fortify the Foundation's structure and integrity to ensure its success into

the future. That meant implementing a strong governance model, and putting a clear strategic plan in place that focuses on practical ways to serve the industry with programs that underpin sustainable, ethical Australian journalism.

The Walkley Awards are the centrepiece of the Foundation's work in encouraging excellence in Australian journalism, →

Marina Go.



and celebrating the best of our craft will always be a highlight.

We've been working hard to expand the professional development program, offering more opportunities for mentorships as well as scholarships and fellowships that link emerging voices from a range of backgrounds with experience and support to establish careers that will flourish. In 2021, that included new JNI Opportunity Fellowships as well as established scholarships for aspiring young Indigenous journalists, regional reporters and broadcast journalists.

We know that it's not just young people who need support, though. The Walkley Mentorship Program, which is available to journalists of all ages and experience levels, attracted a record number of applicants, while a new leadership program will equip our next generation of newsroom managers to lead with confidence and skill.

Working with partners and supporters, the Foundation brings its reputation for integrity

and excellence to administering funds, grants and other programs to support and value Australian journalism.

The generous donation by John B Fairfax and his family, announced in 2021, is a powerful endorsement of the Young Australian Journalist of the Year program. I know the Walkley Foundation's work with young journalists will be a fitting way to honour the legacy of John and his family's rich history in Australian media.

I would like to thank those who have served alongside me on the board – Karen Percy, Michael Brissenden, Michael Janda, Marcus Strom, Lenore Taylor and Victoria Laurie – for their commitment to the Foundation. And of course I wish Adele Ferguson the very best as she succeeds me as Chair. The Foundation is in very good hands.

I'd also like to pay tribute to Louisa Graham's work as Chief Executive. Her strategic focus, innovation and leadership have guided the Foundation to the strong position it is in now. •

**It's a time of change,
but the Walkley
Foundation is ready
for the future.** – MARINA GO

Encouraging excellence

The Walkley Foundation is a custodian of excellence in reporting and works independently with all media organisations to encourage journalism of the highest standard.





Clockwise from left: 2020 Walkley Award Winners; Ross Gittins was recognised for his Outstanding Contribution to Journalism; Mark Willacy won the 2020 Gold Walkley.



The Walkley Awards

The Walkley Awards have recognised the best Australian journalism for more than 60 years and will carry this mission into the future. The Walkleys are the only national journalism awards program. Amid industry-wide challenges and a disrupted year, Australian journalists' work has never been more important. We received 1280 entries for the 66th Walkley Awards, with the winners announced in Sydney on February 25, 2022.

Clockwise from right: 2021 Media Diversity Australia Award winner Jason Om; Samantha Maiden won the 2021 Our Watch Award; winners at the 2021 Mid-year Celebration of Journalism.



Mid-year Celebration of Journalism

The 2021 Mid-Year Celebration was held in Sydney on June 16, honouring winners of the Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards, June Andrews Award for Industrial Relations Reporting, June Andrews Award for Freelance Journalist of the Year, June Andrews Award for Women's Leadership in Media, Our Watch Award, Media Diversity Australia Award, Humanitarian Storytelling Award, June Andrews Award for Arts Journalism and The Pascall Prize for Arts Criticism. →

Mridula Amin from the ABC was named the 2021 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the Year for “The Hidden Park of Last Resort”. This story was also the winner of the Longform, Feature or Special category. The Walkley Judging Board said Amin’s entry stood out among a strong field.

Kelly Burke, winner of the June Andrews Arts Journalism Award, and music writer Anwen Crawford, who took out the Pascall Prize for Arts Criticism, each received \$5000 thanks to the generosity of the Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund.

Other awards

Support from Media Diversity Australia enabled us to offer an award for journalism that raises awareness of culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people with disability.

It recognises the significance of media coverage in providing nuanced reporting that can alter perceptions and attitudes, challenge stereotypes and fight misinformation. Jason Om, Alex McDonald and Ake Prihantari won in 2021 for their reporting for ABC 7.30 on exploited food delivery workers.

We continued our relationship with Our Watch and administered the Our Watch Award for reporting to end violence against women. The 2021 winner was Samantha Maiden for her news.com.au reporting on Brittany Higgins’ allegation that she was raped at Parliament House.

The International Committee of the Red Cross supported a new Humanitarian Storytelling Award, won by Andrew Quilty for his report “A War on Civilians in Afghanistan” for *The Monthly* and *The Intercept*.



570

2021 WALKLEY
AWARD ENTRIES



1,280

2021 MID-YEAR
CELEBRATION AWARD
ENTRIES

“For me, this story is really representative of what I do, which is just human storytelling... It’s a great recognition that I can be who I want to be and also have that resonate across the journalism community.”

– MRIDULA AMIN



ABC reporter and photojournalist Mridula Amin took home three trophies from the 2021 Mid-Year Celebration of Journalism – the Young Journalist Awards for Longform Feature or Special, Visual Storytelling, and overall Young Australian Journalist of the Year – for her moving visual feature and *Background Briefing* radio piece about the residents of a long-term caravan park in Sydney’s Fairfield.

“Sensitive, compassionate and beautifully shot,” the Walkley Judging Board said. “Mridula Amin’s ‘The hidden park of last resort’ is a wonderful human story well told. Gaining the trust of the residents and demonstrating a non-judgmental approach to her reporting, Amin’s investigation empowered the community to fight for their homes inside one of Sydney’s last long-term caravan parks.”



2021 Walkley Mentoring Program cohort: Mawunyo Gbogbo from the ABC; Dion Georgopoulos from Australian Community Media; Heidi Heck from *Tasmanian Times* and *Dynamic Business*; freelancer Nic Huntington; Maram Ismail from SBS Radio; freelancer Suzi O'Shea; Erin Parke from ABC Regional; Ruby Prosser Scully from *The Medical Republic*; freelancer Navin Sam Regi; the ABC's Samuel Yang.

Professional development

Mentorship

The Walkley Foundation mentorship program provides an opportunity for journalists to develop their skills, build their networks and learn from those who have walked the path before them.

Mentorship is built into a number of our programs, including the Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards. Journalists of all ages and levels of experience can

also apply for the dedicated 12-month Walkley Mentorship program. A record 83 applicants applied for the 2021 program, with 10 mentorships available.

Our mentorship program would not be possible without the support of the many senior journalists who give their time to share their expertise with our mentees. The Walkley Foundation would like to acknowledge and thank all the mentors for their significant contributions.



Mentor *Guardian Australia*'s Helen Sullivan and 2020 mentee Kate Thomas in February 2021.

“Helen carefully introduced me to the world of journalism as if it were a home and I was allowed to take up resident, encouraging me to let rip on my long-held ambitions by helping me get my first piece in Guardian Australia. That electric feeling is like nothing else. Journalism is a confidence game, and Helen has been my biggest champion. But most of all, Helen has made me feel like I have permission to be a journalist.” KATE THOMAS

Scholarships and fellowships

The Walkley Foundation works to ensure the brightest new talents from a diverse range of backgrounds are recognised, developed and connected with the industry.

Jacoby-Walkley Scholarship

The 2021 Jacoby-Walkley Scholarship winner, Ella McCrindle from the University of Sydney, spent 10 weeks with Nine in Sydney and four weeks with the Walkley Foundation.

WIN News Scholarship

Inaugural winner Scout Wallen, from the University of Queensland, completed 12 weeks learning the ropes of regional news at WIN News in Wollongong and Maroochydore.



Stella Lauri, Director, Network News, of WIN News (left) with scholarship winner Scout Wallen.

WALKLEY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



JACOBY-WALKLEY SCHOLARSHIP



WIN NEWS SCHOLARSHIP



JNI OPPORTUNITY FELLOWSHIPS



WALKLEY YOUNG INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP



WILLIAM BUCKLAND FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP





BHP's Jeremy Milne with Tahnee Jash, the winner of the 2021 Walkley Young Indigenous Scholarship with Junkee Media and Ten.

Walkley Young Indigenous Scholarship

2021 Walkley Young Indigenous Scholarship winner Tahnee Jash is a proud Yuin-Kamilaroi woman who grew up in western Sydney on Dharawal and Darug country. An emerging TV reporter, Jash split the 12-week scholarship between Junkee Media and 10 News First. Inaugural scholarship winners Molly Hunt and Jennetta Quinn Bates undertook their placements in Sydney newsrooms in early 2021. Quinn Bates went on to a job as a journalist at NITV/SBS, while Hunt is freelancing.

William Buckland Foundation Fellowship with *The Age*

Jackson Graham from *The Warrnambool Standard* began 12 weeks on secondment at *The Age* in March 2021. He produced or collaborated on more than 40 reports for *The Age* during his placement, including a special solo report on wind farms which was published in *The Age* and the *Standard*.

William Buckland Foundation Scholarship with *Sunraysia Daily*

As the winner of the 2020 William Buckland Foundation Scholarship, Tamara Clark spent 12 weeks as a regional journalist in the *Sunraysia Daily* newsroom in Mildura. She covered sport, news, health and education, and her work ethic and professionalism impressed the editor and manager. Clark is still working in media in Mildura at Southern Cross Austereo.

JNI Opportunity Fellowships

The JNI Opportunity Fellowships give talented early-career journalists and individuals from diverse backgrounds the chance to develop their journalism careers by working in a newsroom, building connections, and undertaking substantive reporting with a host organisation. Three inaugural winners are completing 12-week fellowships at Nine Melbourne (including 9News, *The Age* and 3AW), in Sydney at *Guardian Australia*, and in Brisbane at Ten News First and *The Courier-Mail*.

The inaugural winners are:

- Zathia Bazeer, Macleay College
- Tricia Lee Rivera, Monash University
- Rafqa Touma, University of Technology, Sydney.



JNI Opportunity Fellowship winners Rafqa Touma, Zathia Bazeer and Tricia Lee Rivera.

Training and masterclasses

Google News Initiative Training

Now, more than ever, journalists need access to practical digital skills to help them research and share vital information with the public. As we all feel the lasting impact of COVID-19, the Walkley Foundation and Google have continued to support the news industry by providing hundreds of hours of free webinars reaching thousands of journalists and students.

In March, representatives from AAP, ABC, Network 10, *The New Zealand Herald*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and 2SER, as well as First Draft, UTS and Swinburne University, joined us for a week-long boot camp to learn the latest tools and exchange ideas and insights.

In May, CONVERGE Lismore brought the First Nations media industry together on Bundjalung country to learn, share and network. Google Teaching Fellow Miguel D'Souza and Google Publishing Fellow Neil Varcoe said they were privileged to be invited to speak at the event and discuss digital skills to support journalism, publishing and productivity.

In June, we kicked off the second annual Verification Challenge. This online competition pitted contestants against a series of puzzles that helped them learn how to identify sources, fact-check information, and guard against manipulated content. In the end, our 12-week tournament came down to the wire, with Kevin Nguyen and his team →

from the ABC narrowly winning over Zathia Bazeer and her fellow students at Macleay College.

All the while, our trainers have been busy meeting journalists, editors and students on Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, Skype – you name it – to teach them valuable, practical skills for reporting in the digital age.



Google News Teaching Fellow Miguel D'Souza at CONVERGE Lismore in May 2021.

Masterclasses and webinars

We partnered with MEAA to present a five-part webinar series on the Journalist Code of Ethics. The live sessions were by donation to the Media Safety & Solidarity Fund, and recordings of all the webinars are now available for playback on the Walkley website. Speakers included Kate McClymont, Ginger Gorman, Allan Clarke, Sumeyya Ilanbey, Saffron Howden and Peter Greste.

In partnership with the Scanlon Foundation, we presented four webinars to train Australian journalists in diversity and inclusion.

Sessions explored best practice around the language of storytelling, engaging with communities and expanding your audience, with speakers including James Button, Noor Shanino, Julie Szego, Jieh-Yung Lo, Jen Sharpe and Asanti Abubakar.

We worked with the University of Queensland to present a series of practically focused masterclasses led by award-winning journalists including Alison Sandy, Patrick Abboud, Nick Evershed and the Walkley Foundation's own John Bergin. Delivered initially to UQ students, all masterclasses are now available online.

In partnership with Media Super, we hosted a webinar on The Business of Freelancing, and with Twitter Australia we presented a number of online sessions for journalists.

“Thank you for the insightful and broad discussion about increased inclusive media that represents Australia’s true multiculturalism and diversity.”

– EVENT FEEDBACK

Leadership



2021 Walkley Leadership Program cohort: Louise Bourke from Schwartz Media; Liz Burke from news.com.au; Una Butorac from SBS; Esther Chan from First Draft; Tom Clift from Crikey (Private Media); Jessie Davies from ABC Central West; Tangiora Hinaki from Ngaarda Media; Madeline Link from *The Northern Daily Leader*; Melissa Mobbs from *The Examiner*; Jason Whittaker from the ABC.

The Walkley Foundation and UNSW AGSM are helping cultivate the next generation of newsroom leaders by jointly designing and developing a learning experience for those aspiring to step into senior roles.

The Walkley Foundation Leadership Program is a three-week micro-credential catering specifically to the news industry. The course equips journalists with practical leadership skills and pathways to further study, and is conveniently delivered online through a blend of live, interactive sessions and self-paced learning. Successful

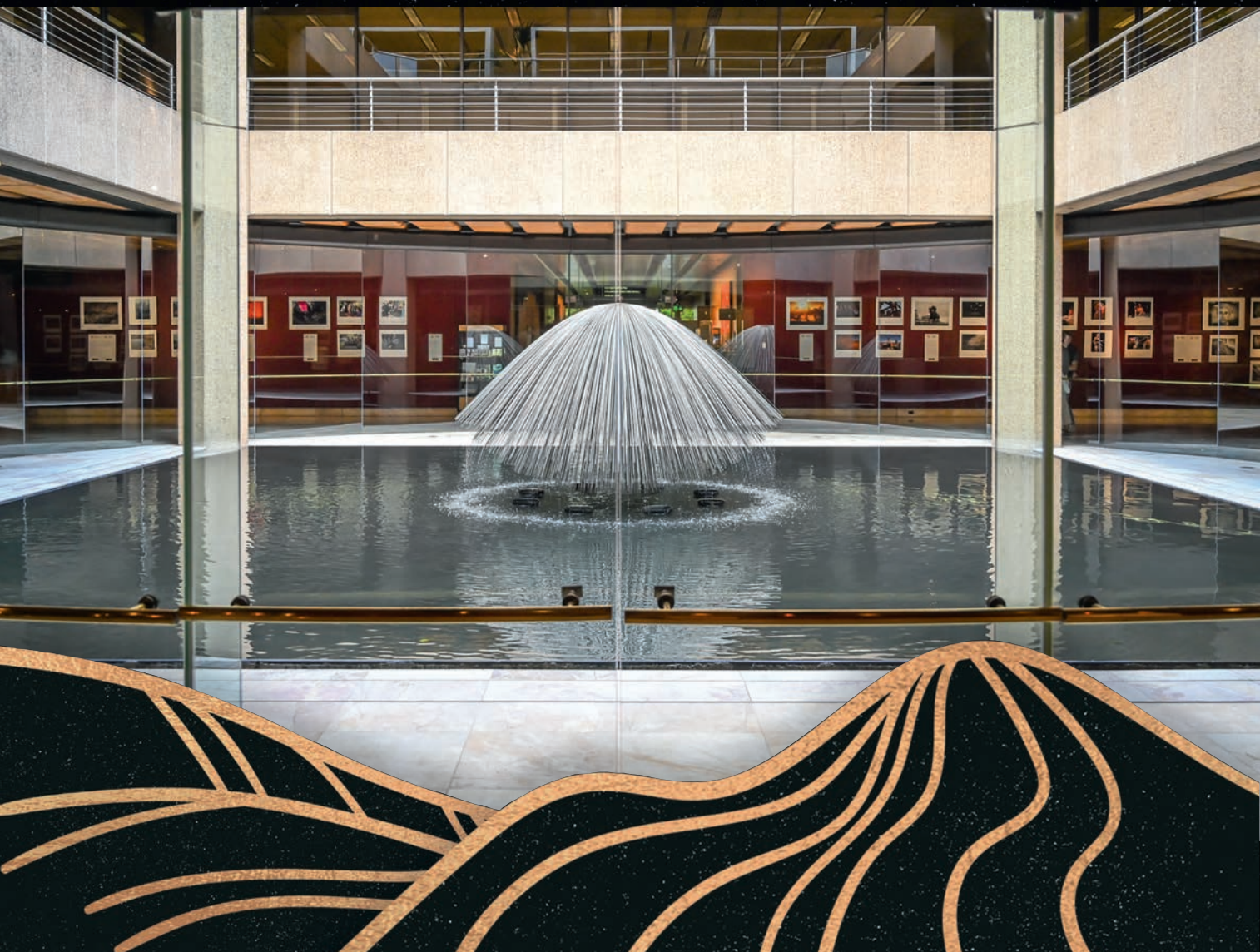
applicants learn how to navigate the complex nature of journalism at a senior level, get the best out of their teams, realise strategic goals and more.

The winner of each of the six Young Journalist of the Year categories also received a complimentary place in an AGSM short course at UNSW Business School. All courses earn credit towards the AGSM Certificate of Executive Management and Development which, in turn, carries course credit for the AGSM MBA and Graduate Certificates.

SUPPORTERS OF TRAINING, MASTERCLASSES AND LEADERSHIP



Supporting and valuing journalism



Telling our story

We profile our Walkley winners through a series of spotlight interviews that appear weekly in our newsletter, on our website and on social media. The interviews showcase not only our winners' amazing work, but also the impact that journalism has on the wider community.

In 2018, the Foundation began collating and digitising images of early winners and designing an online platform to showcase this impressive catalogue of work. With support from our media partners, the Walkley Foundation continued the important work of adding award-winning reporting and behind-the-scenes content to the online platform.

Walkley archive

The Walkley Awards have been recognising the best in Australian journalism since 1956, steadily assembling a rich archive that offers a unique insight into history as it unfolds.

Photojournalism

The 2021 Nikon-Walkley Press Photography Exhibition was displayed at NSW Parliament House from November to December 2021.



Walkley-winning photojournalist Nick Moir gives a floor talk at the 2020 Nikon-Walkley Press Photography Exhibition at NSW Parliament House. The exhibition returned there in 2021.

Regional Journalism Summit

The Walkley Regional Journalism Summit, held online on February 10, 2022, painted a comprehensive picture of regional media in Australia. The Summit brought together voices from the industry, the latest research from across the nation, and case studies from independent and innovative regional news outlets. The Walkley Foundation partnered with *The Northern Daily Leader* and the ABC and its regional network to amplify the summit, and ABC program *The Drum* broadcast a tie-special on regional journalism in conjunction with the summit.

Hosted by the ABC's Lisa Millar, the Summit explored the issues facing regional communities and the importance of local journalists in telling regional stories. Open to the public and streamed live, the Summit brought communities together and highlighted the impact of regional journalism.

Facebook Fund

The Walkley Foundation will independently manage the distribution of a \$15 million Facebook Australian News Fund through a competitive application process.

The Facebook Australian News Fund will help small news organisations and independent journalists produce news of public interest value across Australia.

It will also support regional and digital newsrooms as they develop new products and strategies to expand reach and revenue. The \$15 million is divided between two funds, the Newsroom Sustainability Fund and the Public Interest Journalism Fund, over three years.

In the initial 2021 round, 168 applications were received across the two funds. Funding recipients will be announced in March 2022.

Grants

Now in its third year, the Sean Dorney Grant for Pacific Journalism offers \$10,000 to assist an Australian journalist to produce a significant work of journalism that will give voice to Pacific Island perspectives on an under-reported



Natalie Whiting, 2021 Sean Dorney Grant winner.

issue or development of importance to Australia and the region. ABC Papua New Guinea correspondent journalist Natalie Whiting was named the recipient of the 2021 Sean Dorney Grant for Pacific Journalism, and will use the grant to fund in-depth reporting on tribal violence in PNG's highlands.

COVID and its associated travel restrictions affected many of the projects funded through 2020 Walkley grant programs and their timelines. In addition to completed reporting from Emma Masters, Jess Malcolm and Nicole Curby, we expect to see stories published from a number of other grantees by early 2022. •

“This grant made a huge difference to us – it enabled us to complete the project, providing much needed funds. I really appreciate that this grant doesn’t chew up a lot of time in administration, but allowed us time and money to produce the work that we had promised to make. I think this is a wonderful grant, and I’m really proud of the work that it enabled me to produce.”

– NICOLE CURBY, GRANTEE

“The piece has had a profound impact on my career. I won Student Journalist of the Year at the Quill Awards from the article, as well as at the Ossie Awards. I think this piece helped me break into journalism and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity from the Walkley Foundation.”

– JESS MALCOLM, GRANTEE

SEAN DORNEY GRANT SUPPORTERS



SUPPORTED BY: STEPHEN HOWES AND CLARE HOLBERTON, BOB AND HELEN LYON, IAN AND DENISE MACINTOSH, PACIFIC ISLAND LIVING MAGAZINE, TNC PACIFIC CONSULTING AND ANONYMOUS (1)

Independence and good governance

The Walkley Foundation is an independently funded company limited by guarantee and registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

The Walkley Awards belong to journalists and the industry; we work independently and collaboratively with all media. Support from media organisations, in the form of financial support or in-kind contributions, is critical to our success.

Walkley Foundation Chair Marina Go said farewell to the organisation in late 2021, after four years on the board helping the Foundation to build relevant programs

for the industry and a strong governance model. Gold Walkley-winning investigative journalist Adele Ferguson, who joined the board in 2020, stepped into the role of Chair following the October board meeting. Michael Brissenden was announced as the new Chair of the Walkley Judging Board. Louisa Graham stepped down as Chief Executive of the Walkley Foundation in November 2021, with Shona Martyn starting in the role in January 2022.

Walkley Directors

The company directors, also known as the Walkley Foundation trustees



Incoming Chair: Adele Ferguson
The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Australian Financial Review



Outgoing Chair: Marina Go,
non-executive director



Deputy Chair: Karen Percy,
senior journalist and MEAA National Media Section



Michael Brissenden,
senior journalist



Michael Janda, ABC and
MEAA National Media Section



Victoria Laurie, *The Australian*
(alternate)



Marcus Strom, University of
Sydney and MEAA National
Media Section

Walkley Judging Board

The Board of Directors appoints the Walkley Judging Board. This is an advisory committee composed of senior media industry members who judge the Walkley Award winners, advise the directors on matters relating to the awards, and act as ambassadors for the Walkley Foundation.



Chair: Michael Brissenden, senior journalist and author



Deputy Chair: Claire Harvey, *The Australian**



Natalie Ahmat, NITV News



Michael Bachelard, *The Age*



Neil Breen, 4BC Breakfast



Jane Doyle, Seven News Adelaide



Narelda Jacobs, Network Ten



Deborah Knight, 2GB



Stella Lauri, WIN Television



Dean Lewins, AAP



Hamish Macdonald, ABC and Network 10



Mark Mallabone, *The West Australian*



Bhakthi Puvanenthiran, ABC Everyday



Tory Shepherd, *Guardian Australia*



Cameron Stewart, *The Australian*

*Abstained from judging in 2021

Public Fund Committee

The committee is the custodian of the Walkley Public Fund. Comprising senior journalists and industry leaders, the committee ensures that appropriate governance and processes are in place for administering fund monies.



Kate Haddock,
Banki Haddock
Fiora



Kate Julius,
PwC



Jim Nolan,
former barrister



Alan Sunderland,
journalist and
author



Pamela Williams,
*The Australian
Financial Review*

Walkley Team

- Louisa Graham, outgoing chief executive
- Shona Martyn, incoming chief executive
- Lauren Dixon, general manager
- John Bergin, professional development lead
- Barbara Blackman, executive officer
- Jessica Braddock, events and awards Co-ordinator, MEAA State Media Awards
- Kate Burgess, communications project manager
- Gemma Courtney, events and marketing manager
- Clare Fletcher, communications and editorial manager
- Helen Johnstone, development manager





Media workers unite for stronger industry, press freedom

Fake news, harassment and economic strains don't let up, but media workers can still celebrate some major wins.

MARCUS STROM, MEAA MEDIA FEDERAL PRESIDENT

In a difficult year, the professionalism and dedication of Australia's journalists have shone through. Australia's media workers have provided an essential service during the two years of the COVID pandemic, providing vital information to safeguard the community.

And we have risen to the occasion by assisting colleagues in places such as Afghanistan and Myanmar, and continuing to campaign for the release of our colleagues Cheng Lei in China and Julian Assange in the UK.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and salute Australia's journalists for carrying out their jobs in very difficult circumstances.

In an era of "fake news" and deliberate disinformation, we have witnessed the rise of conspiracy theorists and other bad faith actors seeking to peddle lies under the guise of being "media".

As the custodians of Australia's Journalist Code of Ethics, MEAA has met this challenge by emphasising the rights and responsibilities of MEAA Media members, as well as the use of their membership cards and identification from their media outlets as proof that they are legitimate working media.

MEAA has also embarked on a public education campaign on MEAA Media's Journalist Code of Ethics. In conjunction with the Walkley Foundation, MEAA ran a series of public webinars with journalists explaining how the Code plays a role in their work. MEAA is also campaigning to embed ethics into journalists' workplaces and day-to-day activities, by pursuing the inclusion of the Code in industrial agreements. We have celebrated several successes in this area, with AAP, *The New Daily* and



Marcus Strom, 2021 MEAA Media Federal President.

Guardian Australia recognising the Code in enterprise agreements.

This move is intended not only to protect journalists but also to fight for ethical journalism in the public interest, to serve our audiences and to campaign for improved attitudes towards journalism among the public at large.

MEAA Media membership grew from 4788 to more than 5000 during the financial year, showing that media workers want to be part of a union as much as ever. Members continued to fight to defend and extend their workplace rights.

In March, improvements to digital journalists' conditions took effect with their inclusion in the benchmark Journalists Published Media Award following the success of MEAA's years-long campaign. This gave access to overtime and penalty rates to many online journalists, often for the first time. →

During 2021, MEAA members at *The New Daily* negotiated their first collective agreement, while negotiations were also held at News Corp, AAP, *Guardian Australia* and several regional mastheads. MEAA continued to act to safeguard member conditions outside of bargaining, including pursuing a Fair Work Commission dispute against News Corp around grading and performance reviews that led to a process of annual reviews for employees across editorial.

MEAA Media's Freelance Committee has embarked on a campaign to organise freelancers with the aim of making payment rates fair and transparent and getting invoices paid on time. MEAA launched a survey on the state of freelance journalism, generating hundreds of responses, and began working on an improved contributor pay-rates tracker. It has been wonderful to see freelance journalists really come together in solidarity under the MEAA banner.

MEAA Media also worked on the role of contributors and the security of our in-house members by advocating for freelancers' minimum rates of pay, alongside pay increases for in-house staff during enterprise bargaining. Freelance contributors and employed journalists stood together at *Guardian Australia*, prompting the company to increase minimum contributor rates for most freelancers.

The federal government's disdain for public broadcasting has continued. The Budget failed to clarify future funding for the ABC and SBS. For the ABC, there is still another year to run before the indexation freeze of its operating budget ends, while the \$44 million annual enhanced local and regional news-gathering program expires next year with no guarantee it will be extended.*

MEAA's Our Communities, Our Stories campaign continued to highlight the vital service provided by regional media, despite the closure of 150 community and regional mastheads in 2020. MEAA surveyed regional journalists for their ideas on how to improve the sustainability of rural media and it was great to see everyone together online for the Regional Journalism Summit.

In April, MEAA gave notice to the Australian Press Council that it would leave the organisation in 2025 following consultation with members. Self-regulation is slow, ineffective and stuck in the pre-digital era. MEAA is campaigning for a modern, transparent and rigorous system of self-regulation that the public can trust.

MEAA has called for revenue to be reinvested in jobs and for targeted assistance to freelancers and small, regional and other outlets that are unable to access funding, including AAP. The federal government provided \$15 million over two years to AAP, an important win for a service that provides news to dozens of outlets. And while the passing of the News Media Bargaining Code was welcome, MEAA remains concerned that Facebook and Google are doing the minimum to sit outside the code's regulatory powers, to the detriment of smaller and regional publishers.

MEAA's annual press freedom report, released on May 3, focused on the rising risks to journalists at work, including harassment, violence and online abuse, often in the form of gendered cyberhate. MEAA launched the Enhancing Online Safety of Women in the Media Project in partnership with Gender Equity Victoria and Australian Community Managers. The project developed resources for media

We have assisted colleagues in Afghanistan and Myanmar, and campaigned for the release of Cheng Lei in China and Julian Assange in the UK.

MARCUS STROM, MEAA MEDIA FEDERAL PRESIDENT

organisations to better support women journalists who experience harassment.

MEAA is concerned at the US government's ongoing attempts to extradite MEAA member and WikiLeaks' publisher Julian Assange to face prosecution using powers that would undermine press freedom the world over. The Australian government must use its relationship with Washington to end this vendetta against Assange and to bring Julian home. MEAA maintains close contact with Assange's legal team and with WikiLeaks – the organisation won the Walkley Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism in 2011.

MEAA members supported an open letter for our member Cheng Lei who is detained in Beijing on espionage charges. The letter called for her to be released from detention and allowed to return home to her family. MEAA also protested China's harassment of Australian journalists which forced them to leave the country.

MEAA contributed to Senate inquiries into media diversity and press freedom

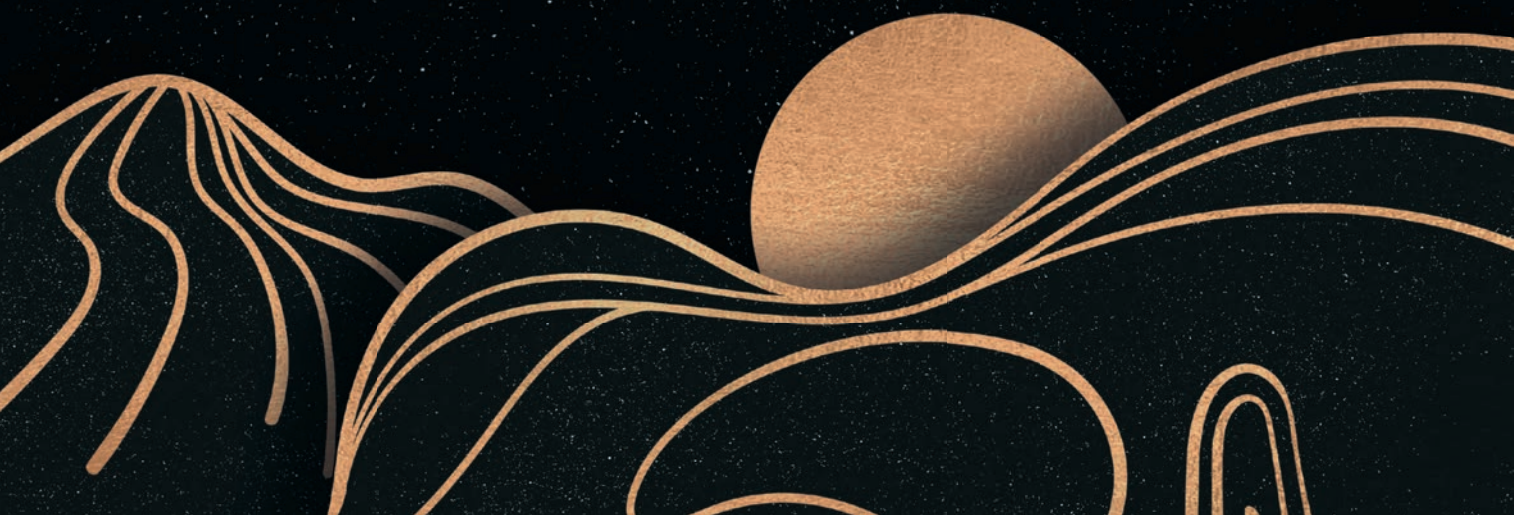
and worked with industry lobby group Australia's Right To Know to develop reforms to Australia's defamation law regime. MEAA members also delivered a petition to the Queensland attorney-general calling for a comprehensive journalist "shield" law in the only jurisdiction yet to enact such legislation. A draft consultation Bill is currently under consideration.

The Media Safety & Solidarity Fund raised money and directed emergency assistance to Burmese journalists who have gone into hiding in Myanmar or who have fled to Thailand following the military coup in February. MEAA members have also taken action to assist Afghan media workers and their families in dire peril following the Taliban's return to power.

Our support and solidarity for each other by being union is what makes us strong and allows us to continue the fight for better pay and conditions, and for a free press in Australia and around the world. •

*As we were going to press the Coalition announced it was restoring some funding to the public broadcasters - in particular the ABC's indexation freeze instituted in 2019. This is a welcome move but falls well short of clawing back the cuts since 2013.

The 66th Walkley Awards



NSW Government supports the 2021 Walkley Awards

Our media landscape has been in a state of flux for many years now, but over the past two years the pace has gone into overdrive.

Crises like bushfires, floods, and a fast-moving virus create a hunger and a need for the real-time circulation of vital information. At the same time, the variety of media - both formal and informal - continues to expand, in a technological environment where unreliable sources of information can rapidly proliferate, sowing discord and uncertainty within our communities.

In this context, we have come to appreciate more than ever the value and importance of rigorous, impartial journalism.

As we enter the third year of a global pandemic, the Walkley Awards present a timely opportunity to honour the best work of the fourth estate - the reporters, journalists, writers, editors, photographers and producers who have worked so hard to keep us informed, and uncover the stories that matter.

Since commencing in 1956, the Walkley Awards have become an iconic milestone in the media year. But they are so much more, recognising the achievement of excellence in a noble craft, and in service



Dominic Perrottet MP, NSW Premier

of the people of Australia. That is why the NSW Government is so pleased to continue our long-standing support for the event and the ongoing work of the Walkley Foundation.

Congratulations to all finalists and winners in the 66th Walkley Awards. I wish you the best of luck for the Awards night and every success for the future.

**Dominic Perrottet MP,
NSW Premier**

Extraordinary times, extraordinary journalism

Journalists remain a vital part of our democracy and the best of what we do is what we celebrate with the Walkley Awards, writes Michael Brissenden, Walkley Judging Board Chair

This is an extraordinary time in history as we face a global pandemic, an existential climate crisis and a myriad of other challenges. Information has never been easier to access or distort, and trust and integrity have never mattered more.

And despite the continuing pressure from some who willingly stoke the fires of conspiracy, deride what we do as “fake news” or even present their own alternative facts and prosecute them relentlessly, we know that there is a huge appetite for reliable information, for truth and for good storytelling.

For some time, the catchcry has been that the old model of journalism is broken. The rivers of gold dried up years ago and the transition to a new sustainable model has shaken the industry to its foundations. The process of downsizing, restructuring, refocusing, even pivoting, will inevitably continue – but it’s not all bad news. This year we saw groundbreaking legislation passed that has forced the big tech companies to contribute financially for content they publish. News organisations have struck deals with Google and Facebook – and the hope is that money will be funnelled back into journalism and not entirely into dividends. We’ll watch how that pans out, but the signs so far are good: regional



Michael Brissenden

papers are hiring again, large and small organisations around the country are offering more cadetships, and the ABC is putting on 50 rural journalists. This is groundbreaking stuff and the rest of the world is watching.

As journalists we’ll continue to tell the stories, to speak truth to power – to use the old cliché – and to inform and entertain our readers, listeners and viewers in many different ways. We’re not perfect – far from it – but we remain a vital part of our democracy and the best of what we do is what we celebrate with the Walkley Awards.

As journalists we will continue to tell the stories, to speak truth to power – to use the old cliché – and to inform and entertain our readers, listeners and viewers in many different ways.

The Walkleys continue to be the gold standard for excellence in our industry. They are our most recognised and acclaimed journalism awards and the longest standing national awards. The Foundation's mission is to celebrate and support great Australian journalism, and this has certainly been a cracker of a year. A year of extraordinary events at home and abroad and a year of extraordinary investigations and revelations that have had wide-ranging implications.

A year that has seen significant and powerful reporting on issues of gender, power and abuse, mental health, Indigenous issues, racism in sport, the conduct of a small number of our military in Afghanistan, the alarming rise of right-wing extremism and Australia's connections to those global networks. All of it against the background of a pandemic, an extraordinary shared global crisis.

Judging the best of all this isn't easy and the Walkley Judging Board takes great pains to ensure that the judges come from every corner of our industry. The first round of judging is exhaustive and exhausting – this year we had 1280 entries – so a big “thank you” to everyone who gave time and energy to this process. The second round of judging is also a collaborative, cross-cultural affair. The Walkley Judging Board is a diverse and inclusive group. The process is thorough, rigorous and – importantly – respected by all of us in the business, regardless of who we work for and the competition between us that sometimes dominates the public discourse.

We meet for a full day to choose the winners. We leave our allegiances and affiliations outside the Zoom room and we recuse ourselves if there is the slightest perception of a professional or personal conflict of interest.

This is my first year as the Chair of the Judging Board and, believe me, I feel the weight of that responsibility keenly. I would like to thank my predecessor, Lenore Taylor, a friend and a colleague who has given an enormous amount to our industry over many years and who remains a formidable force as the editor of *Guardian Australia*. Also, a very big “thank you” to all of my fellow board members for their cooperative and collaborative approach to the process of selecting this year's winners.

Thanks also to our departing CEO, Louisa Graham. Louisa has been with the Walkleys for a decade and steered this ship for the past four years as CEO. She has left us a stronger and more resilient organisation. Welcome also to our new chief, Shona Martyn, whose career has spanned both journalism and publishing. I have to say that when her appointment was announced the response from journalists was overwhelmingly enthusiastic; the feedback from publishers I know was even more so. They all said how lucky we are to have her and we know she'll be a wonderful CEO for the challenging years to come.

Let's enjoy celebrating the best of what we do in the knowledge that what we do and the contribution we make is more important than ever. •

2021 GOLD WALKLEY COVERAGE OF A MAJOR NEWS EVENT OR ISSUE



Samantha Maiden and the news.com.au team

news.com.au, "Open secret:
The Brittany Higgins story"



Brittany Higgins' harrowing account of an alleged rape at Parliament House horrified the nation, but it also inspired thousands of women to march for change. Samantha Maiden's first story revealed that the Liberal staffer felt she was under pressure not to create "trouble" and detailed the extraordinary decision of Defence Minister Linda Reynolds to ask her to discuss the matter in the very room where the incident allegedly occurred. The story sparked a political earthquake and mass protests.

Maiden followed up with a string of agenda-setting scoops, grounded in weeks of preparation and legal checks by news.com.au's team. This reporting helped spark multiple inquiries, including internal reviews into the workplace culture at Parliament House, and led to the creation of a new, independent complaints body for staff. This was a story that unleashed a national reckoning on sexual assault.

Samantha Maiden is the political editor for news.com.au. She won a Walkley Award in 2020 for her coverage of federal politics and Scott Morrison's secret bushfire holiday to Hawaii. A press gallery veteran, she has covered federal politics for more than 20 years, including for *The Australian* and News Corp's Sunday papers. She is a regular guest on the ABC's *Insiders*. Her first book, *Party Animals*, was published in 2020.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Samantha Maiden broke the story of Brittany Higgins' allegation of sexual assault in Parliament House and pursued it fiercely for weeks. Her powerful reporting revealed significant new angles that built a disturbing picture of the mistreatment of women in Australian politics and fuelled a national discussion about gender relations that dominated public affairs in 2021.

National Politics

Brittany Higgins alleged rape: Parliament office 'steam cleaned' after alleged attack

The Department of Finance sent in the cleaners to the office where a staffer was found half-naked on the couch, sparking a police inquiry.

Samantha Maiden



@samanthamaiden

4 min read February 15, 2021 - 11:25PM



Former Liberal staffer Brittany Higgins spoke to Lisa Wilkinson on The Project about her ordeal

The Department of Finance sent in the cleaners to Defence Minister Linda Reynolds' office after a Liberal staffer was found half-naked on the couch sparking a police inquiry into whether there had been an attempt to "interfere with a suspected crime scene."

News.com.au has confirmed that police investigated the matter after [concerns were raised about the decision to send in the cleaners on the same day the woman, 24-year-old Brittany Higgins, was found in a disorientated state.](#)

But the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) says the Australian Federal Police (AFP) investigation found that because it did not know at the time it was a potential sexual assault that no "criminality" was involved in the clean.

National Politics

'Sleep tight': Minister Michaelia Cash's voicemail message to Brittany Higgins

A senior Minister assured a Libs staffer to "sleep tight" when news of a late night incident was about to break, saying it was "under control".

Samantha Maiden



@samanthamaiden

5 min read February 17, 2021 - 2:23PM



Brittany Higgins will pursue the allegations of rape that have rocked Parliament House with the AFP, as Prime Minister Scott Morrison faces mounting criticism...

Employment Minister Michaelia Cash reassured Liberal staffer Brittany Higgins to "sleep tight" after an incident in a minister's office, pledging to her in a voicemail message that her chief of staff had the issue "under control".

Ms Higgins [alleged she was raped at Parliament House in Defence Minister Linda Reynolds' ministerial office by a colleague.](#)

Ms Higgins was just 24 at the time of the incident in March 2019 and only months into her "dream job" of working at parliament.

The alleged incident threatened to explode in Senate estimates two years ago, prompting the voicemail from Senator Cash.

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NIKON-WALKLEY PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR



Alex Coppel

*Herald Sun, The Daily Telegraph
and The Courier-Mail*



This winning body of work comprises eight images spanning sport, breaking news, features and daily life, all loosely linked by the shadow that the COVID-19 pandemic cast over world events. Alex Coppel captured anti-lockdown protests in Melbourne and regional Victorian businesses desperate for tourists to return, aerial landscapes, babies learning to swim, and athletes at their peak at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Alex Coppel has been a staff photographer for the *Herald Sun* in Melbourne for 21 years. While employed at News Corp, Coppel has covered major news events including three Olympic Games, two Commonwealth Games, tsunamis, bushfires and more. He was named Nikon-Walkley Press Photographer of the Year in 2016.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

With a rock-solid body of work, Alex Coppel has displayed a true portfolio of news, sport and features. From protests to the Olympics, across a breadth of work and a range of situations, each image is arresting. Coppel is a sheer all-rounder who has captured the emotion in all of his stories.

1. Police clash with a group during anti-lockdown protests across Melbourne and pepper-spray a man during the violent scuffle.
2. US swimmer Caeleb Dressel powers through the water on his way to winning Gold in the final of the Men's 100m Butterfly at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
3. Babies as young as three months old are "drown-proofed" underwater at a swim school. COVID-19 caused a decline in the number of young Australians taking swimming lessons and a fear of more summer drownings loomed.
4. A man's shadow is thrown across the ground on the banks of Pink Lake in western Victoria, shown from the height of a drone. The lake turns pink only once a year, and the region was desperate for the return of tourists to the area.



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PRINT/TEXT NEWS REPORT



Kate McClymont

The Sydney Morning Herald
 “The lady vanishes: Melissa
 Caddick and the missing millions”



The disappearance of Sydney woman Melissa Caddick in mid-November 2020 captivated the nation. How had a seemingly successful eastern suburbs businesswoman tricked her friends and family into parting with more than \$30 million? To produce these three winning reports, Kate McClymont used financial records, court documents, land title deeds and ASIC records to detail Caddick's life of excess, working the phones to track down investors and get them on the record.

Kate McClymont is an investigative journalist with *The Sydney Morning Herald*. In 2017 she was inducted into the Media Hall of Fame for her contribution to the industry and in 2020 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her services to the print media and to investigative journalism. This win brings her collection of Walkley Awards to nine, including the 2002 Gold Walkley.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

In a strong field of entries, Kate McClymont's stories on the disappearance of Melissa Caddick were a standout. In a fine example of forensic reporting and thorough research under tight deadlines, she combined an extraordinary level of detail and riveting storytelling to offer readers exclusive insights into how one woman came to defraud her family and friends to the tune of \$30 million.

Thank you for leaving no stone unturned

Congratulations to **Kate McClymont** for looking where others didn't to win the 2021 Walkley Award for Print/Text News Report.

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PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISM



Naaman Zhou

Guardian Australia, “Australia’s delivery deaths: The riders who never made it and the families left behind”, “They don’t have brakes, the tyres are gone: Food delivery companies accused of bike safety failures” and “Uber Eats riders earning as little as \$5 for deliveries crossing multiple NSW suburbs”



Five food delivery riders died on the road between September and November 2020. In his three winning reports, Naaman Zhou revealed insights into the lives of gig economy workers. Zhou was able to speak at length with the families of the drivers in their own languages, building relationships and drawing out the human impact of the food delivery services so many Australians relied on during the pandemic. Three days after his feature was published, the NSW government set up a taskforce to investigate the deaths.

Naaman Zhou was a reporter at *Guardian Australia* from 2016 to 2021 and is currently a copy editor at *The New Yorker*. He was a Judith Neilson Asia Reporting Fellow in 2020.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

In compelling, classic public service stories, Naaman Zhou lifted the lid on the realities of life as a food delivery rider. Reporting on largely unregulated industries and their potentially deadly consequences, he created real change for delivery riders and the sector.

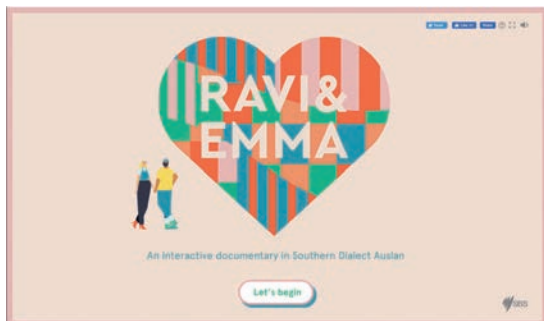
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Congratulations to the
winner and finalists of the
2021 Walkley Award for
Public Service Journalism

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INNOVATION



Kylie Boltin, Ella Rubeli, Ravi Vasavan and Emma Anderson

SBS, "Ravi and Emma"



"Ravi and Emma" is an interactive documentary in Southern Dialect Auslan, using a love story and artificial intelligence technology to engage non-Auslan speakers and encourage them to learn signs. The journalists worked with members of the Deaf community to ensure the Deaf experience was privileged and centred in the documentary, along with the nuances of the Auslan language. The producers collaborated with Deaf peak bodies, academics and storytellers to realise the work.

Kylie Boltin is a Walkley Award-winning producer/journalist and recipient of the 2020 NSW Premier's Literary award for screenwriting. Her work is informed by her PhD training in best practice collaborations with diverse communities. As a commissioning editor and executive producer, Boltin has worked across streaming, social media, the web, theatrical feature documentaries, TV series and single programs. She has provided coverage on multiple TV series and created award-winning scripted podcast series.

Ella Rubeli is a filmmaker based in Darwin. Rubeli began her career as a visual journalist with *The Global Mail* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* before specialising in documentary filmmaking. She is the 2016 Walkley Young Australian Journalist of the year and a three-time Walkley Young Australian Photojournalist of the Year.

Ravi Vasavan is an artist and designer based in London, currently working at design agency Koto. Born Deaf, he brings a uniquely visual perspective to his work and practice. He speaks on the intersection between deafness and design, and the importance of preserving your own perspective.

Emma Anderson is based in London and is Head of Charity Partnerships at UK startup Farewill. She has experience scaling partnerships and fundraising for organisations in the UK and Australia, including Cancer Research UK, English Heritage and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

A perfect example of beautiful, simple and emotional storytelling driven by technology. An interactive documentary in Southern Dialect Auslan, "Ravi and Emma" uses AI, motion tracking, animations and non-linear storytelling to bring Auslan and the Deaf experience to the forefront. An educational and heartfelt piece with real public benefit.



Congratulations!

to the 2021 Walkley Award winners and finalists

Thank you to every journalist who has contributed to covering the challenging events of 2021. Your grit, tenacity and dedication to news has put critical facts into the hands of Australians. Congratulations.

Google News Initiative

HEADLINE, CAPTION OR HOOK



Duska Sulicich

The Age, “Michael rolled, the vote assured, Hallelujah!”, “It’s all a bit cray-cray” and “The Art of the Steal”



Duska Sulicich called on an old song of faith to headline Tony Wright’s column on the resurrection of Barnaby Joyce. Wright rendered the man Barnaby replaced as Nationals leader and deputy PM as Michael “Whatshisname”, because so few Australians knew him. From “Michael rowed the boat ashore” came the headline: “Michael rolled, the vote assured, Hallelujah!”. When the pandemic affected supply chains, turning prices upside down, seafood staples soared while delicacies like crayfish became crazy cheap. Trump’s book title, *The Art of the Deal*, needed only a simple tweak to fit his machinations and allegations that the US election was stolen.

Duska Sulicich is an associate editor at *The Age*. She has held senior roles at the masthead, including editor of *The Age* Tablet, and was editor of the *Sunday Age* for more than six years.

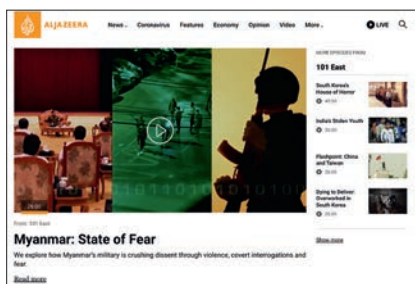
JUDGES’ COMMENTS

A good headline writer can take a familiar phrase and adjust a word or two to turn it into a memorable news headline that is at once clever, succinct and eye-catching. It’s not often that lightning strikes, but Duska’s headlines definitely hit the mark.

SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY MEDIA



PRODUCTION



Rhiona-Jade Armont and the 101 East team

Al Jazeera English, “This is Myanmar’s State of Fear”



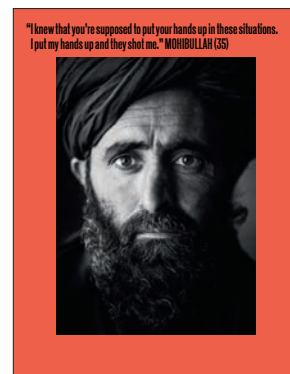
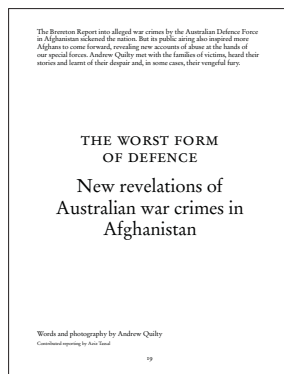
This interactive piece investigates and recreates a secret facility allegedly used for interrogation and torture in a military compound on the outskirts of Myanmar’s biggest city, Yangon. Featuring interviews with detainees, field photography and satellite imagery, the project investigates the military machine behind the authoritarian violence and intimidation sweeping the nation since the army launched a coup in February 2021.

Australian digital producer Rhiona-Jade Armont and the 101 East team have produced a range of innovative online features about human rights issues across the Asia-Pacific for the Al Jazeera Media Network. This weekly current affairs television program used virtual reality, gamification, comic book illustrations and data visualisations to engage web audiences. 101 East’s digital journalism has won a range of international awards.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Using satellite imagery, photos, videos, interviews, digital visualisations and recreations, “State of Fear” is an agenda-setting piece of digital journalism that serves as a key investigation into human rights abuses following Myanmar’s coup. A spectacularly designed piece of work.

FEATURE WRITING LONG (OVER 4000 WORDS)



Andrew Quilty

The Monthly, "The worst form of defence: New revelations of Australian war crimes in Afghanistan"



In the wake of the Brereton Report and other Australian reporting on alleged war crimes in Afghanistan, Andrew Quilty explored the impact of Australian special forces' conduct on the civilian population in Uruzgan Province, covering 10 previously unreported cases that comprised 25 alleged illegal killings and instances of abuse. With the help of an Afghan journalist, Quilty produced the only reports from on the ground in Tirin Kot, the Taliban-besieged capital of Uruzgan. They visited the front lines overlooking Taliban territory and interviewed dozens of victims of abuse and surviving family members of victims of Australian killings.

Andrew Quilty has been based in Kabul, Afghanistan, since 2013, working first as a photojournalist and more recently as a writer. He has worked for most of the world's premier news publications and won several awards for his work there. He has won six Walkley Awards, including the 2016 Gold Walkley. Internationally, Quilty has been the recipient of a George Polk Award, World Press Photo awards and, most recently, an Overseas Press Club of America award.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

An extraordinary piece in a standout field. Andrew Quilty combined boots-on-the-ground reporting in difficult parts of Afghanistan with superb writing to fill in the other side of the war crimes story. Handling his subjects with compassion and delicacy, Quilty has produced an outstanding feature.

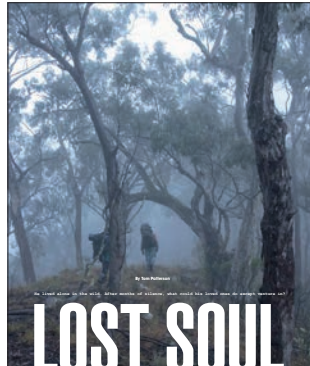
Meta Journalism Project

Congratulations to the finalists and winners of the 2021 Walkley Awards.

Meta is proud to partner with the Walkley Foundation. In support of the Australian journalism industry, we created the \$15 million Meta Australian News Fund to support newsroom sustainability and public interest journalism.



FEATURE WRITING SHORT (UNDER 4000 WORDS)



Tom Patterson

The Australian, “Searching for a lost soul”



The “lost soul” of Tom Patterson’s feature, Mark May, lived for 35 years in remote bushland. Although he was apart from society, his brothers regularly supplied food and medicine and helped him get to family events. When Mark hadn’t been heard from, two of his brothers and their adult children went to check on him. They found him deceased and buried his body in the bush. To share their story, Patterson had to win the trust of the family, navigate legal issues and encounter challenging terrain as he and Mark’s brother walked in and camped for two nights in the rugged country near Armidale where Mark had lived.

Tom Patterson studied engineering and has worked in Australia and Europe. His article “Searching for a lost soul” has been expanded into a book, *Missing*, to be published by Allen & Unwin in February 2022. Patterson lives in Sydney with his partner and daughter.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

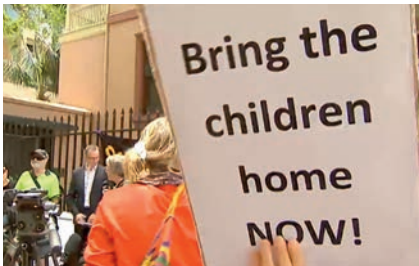
Tom Patterson tells the astonishing story of an indestructible family bond, unfolding his tale with sensitivity and drama. Beautifully told with a gripping narrative, “Searching for a lost soul” leaves a lasting emotional impression on its readers.

THE AGE The Sydney Morning Herald
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COVERAGE OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS



Karla Grant, Julie Nimmo, Michael Carey, Mark Bannerman and the *Living Black* team

Living Black, NITV, “Taken”, “Missing Pieces” and “Heritage Victory”



Living Black is the longest running Indigenous current affairs program on Australian television and these three episodes report vital stories affecting First Nations people.

“Taken” offers a rare insight into the NSW child protection system, with three Aboriginal children detailing the harsh realities of being in government-sanctioned “care” after they were forcibly removed from family. “Missing Pieces” follows a Stolen Generations man, Michael West, on his healing journey to connect to family, culture and country. “Heritage Victory” investigates the Gomeri people’s 13-year battle, and victory, against the Shenhua Watermark mine proposal in northern NSW.

Karla Grant is a proud Western Arrernte woman who joined SBS in 1995 as a reporter and producer and has been at the helm of *Living Black* as presenter and executive producer since she created the program in 2003.

Julie Nimmo is a proud Wiradjuri woman and joined the SBS Indigenous unit in 1996. She won a Walkley for an SBS documentary in 2002 and is *Living Black*’s producer and senior digital editor.

Mike Carey is investigations producer for *Living Black*. He has worked with the ABC, ABC America and SBS *Dateline* and has been with NITV since 2011.

Mark Bannerman is a former supervising producer at ABC 4 Corners and *Lateline*. He still co-hosts on ABC radio and works as *Living Black*’s script editor and producer.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Karla Grant and the *Living Black* team’s outstanding work showcases a breadth of reporting, high levels of journalistic skills and an ability to connect with and gain the trust of their talent in ways that enrich the storytelling. Powerful and compelling.

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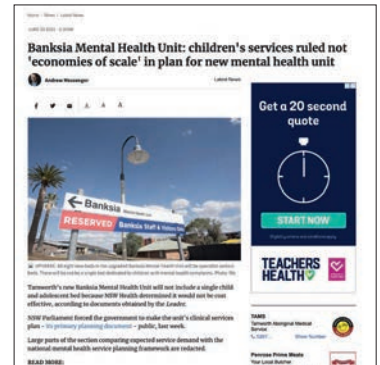
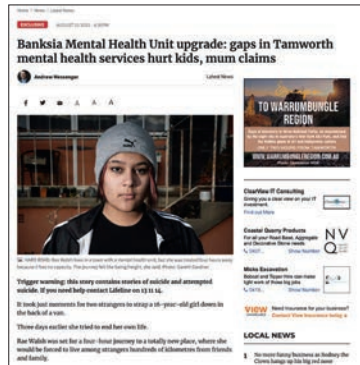
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Congratulations
Karla Grant, Julie Nimmo, Michael Carey,
Mike Bannerman and the *Living Black*
Team, NITV



PwC’s Indigenous
Consulting

COVERAGE OF COMMUNITY OR REGIONAL AFFAIRS



Andrew Messenger

The Northern Daily Leader, “You feel so powerless’: Little room for kids in rural mental health”, “Banksia Mental Health Unit: Children’s services ruled not ‘economies of scale’ in plan for new mental health unit” and “Tamworth Banksia Mental Health modelling says New England North West won’t need more general-purpose beds until 2031”



Months of campaigning and petitioning from the Tamworth Mental Health Carers’ Group convinced the NSW government to spend \$40 million on a new mental health unit. But Andrew Messenger reported the new unit would not have any youth mental health capacity, leaving an enormous gap for a region that is home to 170,000 people. Messenger spoke to scores of concerned parents, children, advocates, MPs, health workers and experts in his six-month investigation into the human cost of health service centralisation. He did it all in his own time, while filing three stories a day for *The Northern Daily Leader*.

Andrew Messenger started his journalistic career in western Queensland, the sole journalist on a weekly paper covering Charleville, Quilpie, Augathella and Morven. After a brief sabbatical, Messenger returned to rural journalism in the small NSW town of Glen Innes in 2019. He joined *The Northern Daily Leader* in 2020, covering health, politics and the mining and energy industries.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Andrew Messenger showed commitment and good on-the-ground, boots-and-all reporting of an important local story that also exposed the much broader issue of small communities being left behind when it comes to health and mental health resources. The sustained nature of his reporting has delivered a truly valuable service to his community.

BHP

Congratulations to all the finalists and winners of the 2021 Walkley Awards.

BHP is proud sponsor of the All Media: Coverage of Community and Regional Affairs award.

SPORT PHOTOGRAPHY



Alex Coppel

Herald Sun, The Daily Telegraph, The Courier-Mail and The Advertiser, "The Games that Had to Happen"



A portfolio of five images from the Tokyo Olympic Games, documenting athletes from around the world in sports as disparate as track and field, canoe slalom, BMX and swimming. Although they were competing without crowds or cheers, in his subjects and their peak performances Alex Coppel captures emotion, endurance, jubilation and commitment.

A staff photographer for Melbourne's *Herald Sun*, Alex Coppel is also the 2021 Nikon-Walkley Press Photographer of the Year. This win brings his total of Walkley Awards to three.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

The Olympics are as hard as you'll ever work as a photographer, and Alex Coppel has produced a collection of ripper pictures. Taken on the fly, his photos are crisp and stunning, with every image a peak moment.

1. US athlete Tara Davis lets her hair fly as she makes her landing in the final of the Women's Long Jump at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
2. The UK's Charlotte Worthington executes a flip on her way to claiming Gold in the BMX Freestyle, which made its debut as an event at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
3. Australia's Jess Fox pushes herself to the limit during the final of the Canoe Slalom at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
4. Poland's Kajetan Duszynski crosses the line to win Gold in the Mixed 4 x 400m Relay and throws his shirt over his head in excitement at the Tokyo Olympic Games.
5. The USA's Caeleb Dressel powers through the water on his way to winning Gold in the final of the Men's 100m Butterfly at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

SPORTS JOURNALISM



Michael Warner

Herald Sun, “Do Better”: The secret Collingwood racism report”



Michael Warner’s initial report revealed the Collingwood Football Club had commissioned, then kept under wraps, an independent 35-page report that found there was “systemic racism” within the club. Eight days later, Collingwood president Eddie McGuire resigned after 22 years in the role.

The *CFC Do Better Report* concluded: “While claims of racism have been made across the AFL, there is something distinct and egregious about Collingwood’s history.”

Michael Warner is an investigative journalist with Melbourne’s *Herald Sun* newspaper and author of *The Boys’ Club*. Warner won the 2018 Alf Brown Award as the Australian Football Media Association’s most outstanding performer. Warner is also a member of 3AW radio’s top-rating football team.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Michael Warner’s exposé of the systemic racism within the Collingwood Football Club and the club’s attempts to keep an internal report private was a bombshell for the AFL, culminating in the resignation of club president Eddie McGuire. Warner did everything a sports reporter should, and produced an amazing piece of reporting.

RADIO/AUDIO NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS



Sally Sara and Victoria Pengilley

RN Breakfast and *The World Today*, ABC, “Afghanistan Interviews”



A series of three interviews secured before and after the fall of Kabul gave listeners a gripping account of the dramatic events in Afghanistan, showcasing Sally Sara’s long experience in the country. Producer Victoria Pengilley organised an interview with the Taliban’s new spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, only weeks before Kabul fell. Pengilley and Sara secured a world exclusive interview with Afghanistan’s Acting Minister for Women, Hasina Safi. And Sara used her Defence contacts to secure the first interview with former Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Admiral Chris Barrie, only hours after the Taliban recaptured Kabul. Sara and Pengilley worked under tight deadline pressure and across time zones, using encrypted messaging to connect with interviewees, many of whom were in danger and in hiding.

Sally Sara is an award-winning journalist, writer and author. She has reported from more than 40 countries as a foreign correspondent with the ABC, including Iraq, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. She has won four UN Media Awards and been nominated for AACTA and Logie Awards. In 2011, Sara was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to journalism and the community. This is her second Walkley Award.

Victoria Pengilley is a reporter and producer with *RN Breakfast*, Radio National’s flagship current affairs program. She previously worked with the ABC’s audio current affairs programs *AM*, *PM* and *The World Today*. She completed a BA in Communications (Journalism) at the University of Technology Sydney in 2021.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Operating under extremely tight deadline pressure, Sara and Pengilley brilliantly executed interviews with Suhail Shaheen, Hasina Safi and Admiral Chris Barrie as the dramatic events in Afghanistan were unfolding. Their excellent reporting gave listeners a gripping and accurate account of what was happening and produced memorable radio.

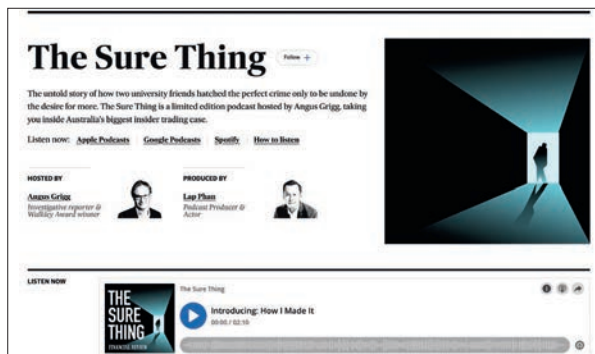


WHEN IT MATTERS TO YOU
IT MATTERS TO US



Congratulations to all the 2021 Walkley winners and finalists

RADIO/AUDIO FEATURE



Angus Grigg and Lap Phan

The Australian Financial Review,
“The Sure Thing”



This seven-part podcast explores how two university friends descended into criminality, triggering the largest insider trading case in Australian history. It charts how Australian Bureau of Statistics analyst Christopher Hill and NAB broker Lukas Kamay turned \$10,000 into almost \$8 million in nine months by accessing ABS data before it was made public. It takes listeners inside the police operation, revealing new details of the tactics used to apprehend the pair, their sentencing hearing, time in jail and the difficulties of life on the outside.

Angus Grigg is a reporter at the ABC's *4 Corners*, joining the program in August 2021 after 16 years at *The Australian Financial Review*. He was the paper's Beijing correspondent and before that reported across South-East Asia from Jakarta. In 2021, Grigg and producer Lap Phan created “The Sure Thing” for the *AFR*. This is his third Walkley Award. Lap Phan is the producer, editor and sound designer behind “The Sure Thing”. In 2021, he received Radio Today's Podcast Series Producer of the Year award. Phan is also an actor and has appeared in numerous film, TV and theatre productions.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Gripping, compelling and fascinating storytelling, “The Sure Thing” takes Audio Feature to another level. With high production values and engaging scripting, the report explains complex financials clearly, while the investigation and web of betrayal draw the audience in. A superb listen.

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BUSINESS JOURNALISM



Caitlyn Rintoul

The West Australian, “Police investigating alleged sexual assault at BHP’s South Flank mine near Newman”, “WA mining giants unite for apology to female mine workers and back calls for sex assault inquiry” and “Mine site sexual harassment inquiry: Submission shows BHP sacked dozens of WA workers”



Caitlyn Rintoul’s investigation into allegations of rape connected to a BHP operation brought about a reckoning for Australia’s resources industry. After the BHP scoop, Rintoul revealed accusations at FMG, Rio Tinto, Pilbara Minerals and Newcrest. A parliamentary inquiry, endorsed by WA Premier Mark McGowan, will hear directly from victims and mining executives. And the Minerals Council of Australia released a national code to set out clear expectations to eliminate sexual harassment.

Caitlyn Rintoul is a journalist at *The West Australian*. Working on the general news desk, Rintoul covers a variety of stories from business, crime, courts, politics and human interest. She started at *The West Australian* in mid-2019 after stints in regional WA at the *Mandurah Mail* and *The Esperance Express*.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

From an alleged sexual assault at one of BHP’s remote Pilbara mines to a parliamentary inquiry into sexual assault and harassment in the industry, Caitlyn Rintoul doggedly pursued this story and had a real impact. Well written, well researched, courageous and complex – a great achievement.

ING 

Well said.

Congratulations to all 2021 Walkley Awards winners from ING.

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SCOOP OF THE YEAR



Ellen Whinnett

The Daily Telegraph, Herald Sun, The Advertiser and The Courier-Mail, "The ANOM Files"



"The ANOM Files" is a rare global exclusive: the story of how the Australian Federal Police and the FBI developed and ran a Trojan horse app which brought down the untouchables of global crime. Ellen Whinnett used her credentials and contacts to land the scoop, producing a package of stories totalling more than 10,000 words. Whinnett conducted all the interviews, and pieced together the stories, video scripts and graphics over several around-the-clock days in a hotel room in top secret. *The Daily Telegraph, Herald Sun, The Courier-Mail and The Advertiser* published unprecedented 16-page print wraparounds on June 8, 2021, and the story was followed around the world.

Ellen Whinnett is investigations editor for News Corp's National Network News. A journalist for more than 30 years, she is a former political editor, foreign correspondent and deputy editor. She focuses on terrorism and national security issues, crime and politics, and splits her time between Melbourne and Canberra. Whinnett started her career as a 17-year-old cadet journalist at Launceston's *Examiner*, and has since reported from more than 30 countries, including East Timor, Syria, Iraq, Bulgaria and Lebanon.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

"The ANOM Files" was a genuine world exclusive and a great scoop. Ellen Whinnett and her team produced the 16-page wraparound in secret in a hotel room over a number of days. The end result is the compelling inside story of the largest covert police operation in Australia's history.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL
2021 WALKLEY AWARD WINNERS



FEATURE/PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY



Dean Sewell

The Sun-Herald,
“Of Mice and Men”



In a series of 12 photographs, Dean Sewell bears witness to the mouse plague that affected swathes of the NSW grain belt in 2021. Sewell set out to document the story through the struggles of Coonamble broadacre farmer Alan Inglis, who had been catching 600-800 mice a night for 10 weeks. Farmers and grain-belt families had been sharing images and videos of the hordes of mice, but Sewell’s narrative treatment made the story national news. The NSW government rolled out support packages for eligible households, small businesses and primary producers across inland NSW in the form of rebates to help manage the cost of mouse baits and cleaning products.



Dean Sewell is an independent documentary photographer and a founding member of Oculi, an independent collective of Australian documentary and fine art photographers. Sewell won the Moran Contemporary Photography Prize in 2009 and 2010, and World Press Photo Awards in 2000, 2002 and 2005.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Dean Sewell’s outstanding images capture the overwhelming scale of one man’s struggle to protect his property from the mouse plague. The well-edited series comprises 12 frames that highlight not only the photographer’s technical skills but also his storytelling ability. Every photo you would want is here.


1. Alan Inglis disposes of the drowned mice carcasses in the open fields beyond the homestead. He performs this task several times over during the morning. “Even the guinea fowl are sick of them,” he quips, as he nods to the birds that roam freely around his property.
2. Alan Inglis displays 60-odd carcasses of drowned mice. This is about the maximum he is able to catch in a single trap.
3. The headlights of a road train in the far distance bear down on unsuspecting mice. The mice converge on the highways, poisoned or otherwise, and are vulnerable to being run over by road trains or other vehicles using the roads at night.
4. Mice infesting grain containers congregate in clusters and observe their fellow captives’ attempts at escape.
5. Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of grain awaiting export are heavily tarpaulined at GrainCorp’s Coonamble grain storage facility to protect it from infestation. Heavy spraying is conducted around these important grain storage sites.






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NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY



Brook Mitchell

The Sydney Morning Herald, “Sydney Anti-Lockdown Protest”



Central Sydney was shut down for several hours on July 24, 2021, as thousands of protesters breached COVID-19 regulations to march against the increasing lockdown restrictions. The scale of the turnout was unexpected and early arrests did not deter many of the protesters. Brook Mitchell was in the thick of the chaos, capturing dramatic moments that were widely shared.

Brook Mitchell is a Sydney-based photographer currently working for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and Getty Images. Born and raised in Melbourne, Mitchell took up photography after completing a degree in History and Political Science at UNSW. After travelling and working internationally, he moved back to Sydney in 2015 and has since worked as a regular stringer and now permanent member of the SMH photography department.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Brook Mitchell’s fearless, striking photos captured the chaos and violence for the rest of the nation to see. There is energy and dynamism in this set of images, and the photo of the horse being punched had a huge impact in Sydney.

TELEVISION/VIDEO: CAMERAWORK



Andy Taylor

ABC TV, “Exposed – The Ghost Train Fire”



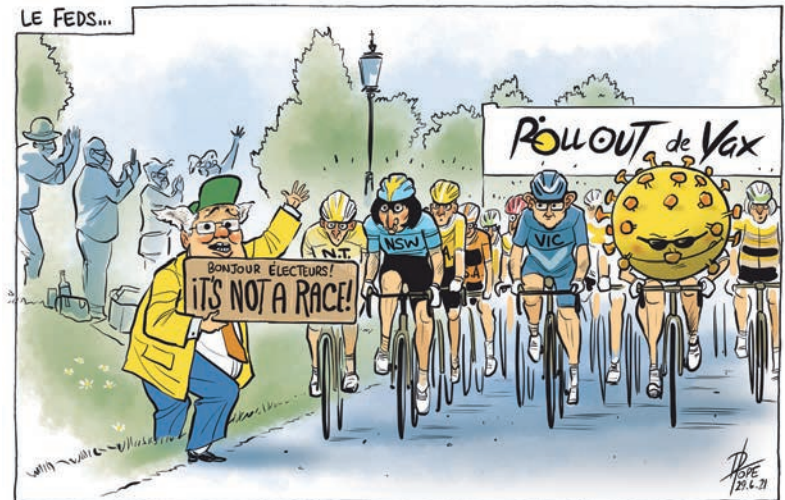
“Exposed – The Ghost Train Fire” comprises three 90-minute episodes of true crime documentary about a 1979 fire at Sydney’s Luna Park. Filming more than 70 interviews at the height of COVID-19 restrictions, often with elderly people, Andy Taylor worked as part of a small team with minimal equipment. With the exception of one interview, Taylor shot the entire series, including the interviews, sequences, re-enactments, drone vision, opening titles and stills photography. He describes the fire re-enactments: “Over five days inside the studio, with the guidance of our pyrotechnician, we slowly and carefully burnt the set down. We then took the façade out to a quarry and blew it to pieces; those explosion shots are probably my favourites.”

Andy Taylor ACS is a freelance cinematographer and CASA-licensed drone pilot based in Sydney. Taylor worked at the ABC for 25 years based in Sydney, London and Moscow, including 12 years at *4 Corners* as a senior news and current affairs cameraman, and spent eight years at *60 Minutes*. This is the sixth Walkley Award he has won for his camerawork.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Andy Taylor’s work is supreme artistry. Every frame is a mini-masterpiece – from beautiful drone shots to the complex re-enactments, which give the narrative its backbone. A perfect example of a camera operator at the peak of his creative powers.

CARTOON



David Pope

The Canberra Times, “Rollout de Vax”



This cartoon references a spectacular bicycle pile-up during the opening stage of the 2021 Tour de France as a metaphor for Australia’s COVID vaccination rollout. The crash, broadcast around the world and viral on social media, was caused by a spectator on the sidelines who, preoccupied with gaining media attention, brought 60 riders to the ground with a homemade cardboard sign. In Pope’s cartoon, it’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison whose cardboard sign suggests “It’s not a race!”

David Pope lives in Canberra and draws cartoons for *The Canberra Times* and Australian Community Media. This is his second Walkley Award; he also won this category in 2015.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

A brilliant merging of two news items – Australia’s bungled vaccine rollout and the crash at the Tour de France. Displaying draftsmanship, wit and humour, Pope’s cartoon “Rollout de Vax” is a standout that was not only perfectly timed but also really funny.



Photography by Ray Jennings,
The EPSON International Pano Awards – Panoramic Photo Contest 2021 (thepanoawards.com)

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TELEVISION/VIDEO NEWS REPORTING



Peter Fegan and Rebeka Powell

Nine News 6pm, Nine, "The Investigation of Andrew Laming"



In three reports aired over three nights, Peter Fegan's interviewees told of alleged harassment and bullying at the hands of a powerful and long-serving MP. The prime minister ordered the Federal MP for Bowman, Andrew Laming, to apologise on the floor of parliament, just hours before Fegan's first story aired on Nine News.

Peter Fegan was a reporter in Sydney for six years, working beats including the very competitive Sydney crime round. Fegan also filled in at the Canberra bureau regularly and covered the state politics round in Sydney. He moved back home to Queensland and began a new job with the Nine Network, where he predominantly covers the COVID rounds and investigations.

Rebeka Powell is an award-winning journalist who has worked as a multiplatform producer and reporter for the ABC, WIN, Nine Network and Network Ten. She began her career as a political intern at the national broadcaster and has been involved in coverage of some of the world's biggest breaking news stories including the 2016 US election, Las Vegas massacre and Thai cave rescue. She is currently a reporter at Channel Ten in Melbourne.

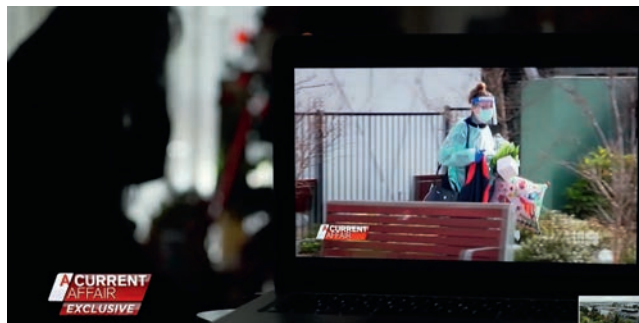
JUDGES' COMMENTS

Peter Fegan claimed Federal MP Andrew Laming's alleged behaviour left two female constituents either contemplating suicide or fearing for their families' safety. He proved Laming's parliamentary apology was incomplete by discovering a third woman who claimed Laming had taken an inappropriate photograph of her. Fegan's reporting arguably led to Laming announcing he would leave office at the next election.



TELEVISION/VIDEO CURRENT AFFAIRS SHORT

(LESS THAN 20 MINUTES)



Christine Ahern

A Current Affair, Nine, “Epping Disgrace”



In this investigation, former carers at an aged care home that suffered one of the most devastating outbreaks of COVID-19 broke their silence about what went wrong. The report aired in November 2020, but drew on sources Christine Ahern had been cultivating since COVID began to ravage the sector in July that year. Ahern built trust with workers at Epping Gardens in order to share their perspective. Many of the carers were on low incomes and foreign worker visas, and many contracted the virus themselves.

Christine Ahern began her 22-year career with the ABC before moving to Nine News Melbourne in 2004 as a sports reporter/presenter. Ahern moved into a national reporting role with the *Today Show*, then relocated to Los Angeles as Nine Network’s US Correspondent in 2014. She currently works as the Melbourne correspondent for the *Today Show*. In 2021, Ahern won two Quill Awards for her reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is her first Walkley Award.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

Christine Ahern’s gripping investigation, “Epping Disgrace”, took viewers behind the headlines into one of Australia’s largest COVID outbreaks. Not only was her report compelling, it also revealed explosive allegations and provided a voice for vulnerable workers and desperate families at the coalface of the crisis. An exceptional piece of current affairs journalism.



SBS congratulates the winners of the 66th Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism

Congratulations Christine Ahern, *A Current Affair*, for winning TV/Video Current Affairs Short

TELEVISION/VIDEO CURRENT AFFAIRS LONG (MORE THAN 20 MINUTES)



Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer

60 Minutes, Nine, "Nazis Next Door"



"Nazis Next Door", a single story broadcast in two Sunday instalments, combined investigative reporting and an undercover operation to identify core members of the National Socialist Network and their links to bikies and international terror groups. Undercover vision obtained over months revealed NSN's support for the Australian shooter found guilty of 51 murders at two Christchurch mosques, and captured evidence of criminal activity, fundraising and plans to start a rural headquarters. The program also included the first major interview by the ASIO chief about right-wing extremism in Australia.

Nick McKenzie is an investigative journalist with *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. He also works with *60 Minutes* and has previously worked with *4 Corners* and *7.30*.

Joel Tozer is a Walkley award-winning journalist and TV producer at *60 Minutes*.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Eight months in the making, this powerful exposé unmasked the unassuming but dangerous men trying to foment a racial war. The journalists and an undercover operative took on considerable risk to their personal safety to produce this remarkable and important piece of journalism about right-wing extremism in Australia.



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And nowhere better to enjoy one than at the Walkley Awards, celebrating the best of Aussie journalism.

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM



Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer

60 Minutes and *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Nine, “Nazis Next Door”, “Inside Racism HQ: How home-grown neo-Nazis are plotting a white revolution” and “From kickboxing to Adolf Hitler: The neo-Nazi plan to recruit angry young men”



This eight-month investigation into the rise of right-wing extremism in Australia culminated in a two-part *60 Minutes* report, two online features with embedded videos and graphics, and multiple newspaper reports. Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer cultivated sources and worked with an infiltrator who, after extensive legal and security advice, made secret recordings inside the National Socialist Network. This award brings Nick McKenzie’s tally of Walkley Awards to 11 and Joel Tozer’s total to three.

JUDGES’ COMMENTS

“Nazis Next Door” is an exhaustive and powerful investigation that opens a window into the chilling world of Australia’s largest neo-Nazi group, the National Socialist Network. The investigation by Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer exposed key members of the far-right group and its links to international neo-Nazi terror groups.

Congratulations to the 2021 Walkley Award winners and finalists

Energy allows us to do incredible things and AGL is proud to support Australian Investigative Journalism through the Walkley Awards.



JUDGES

Working together

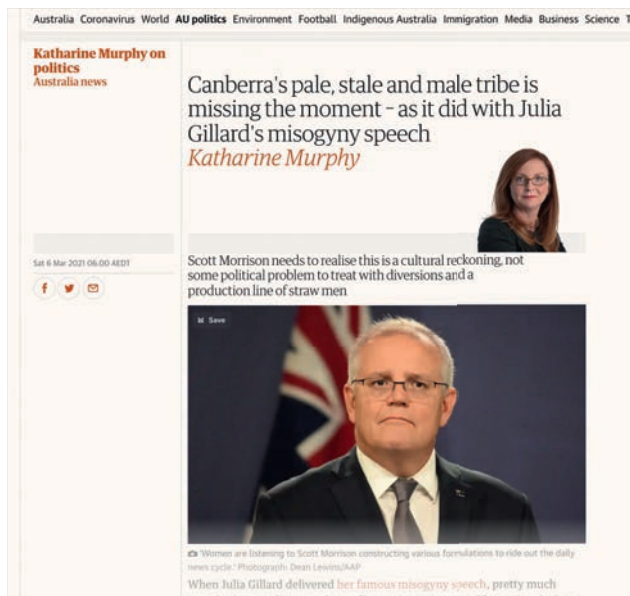
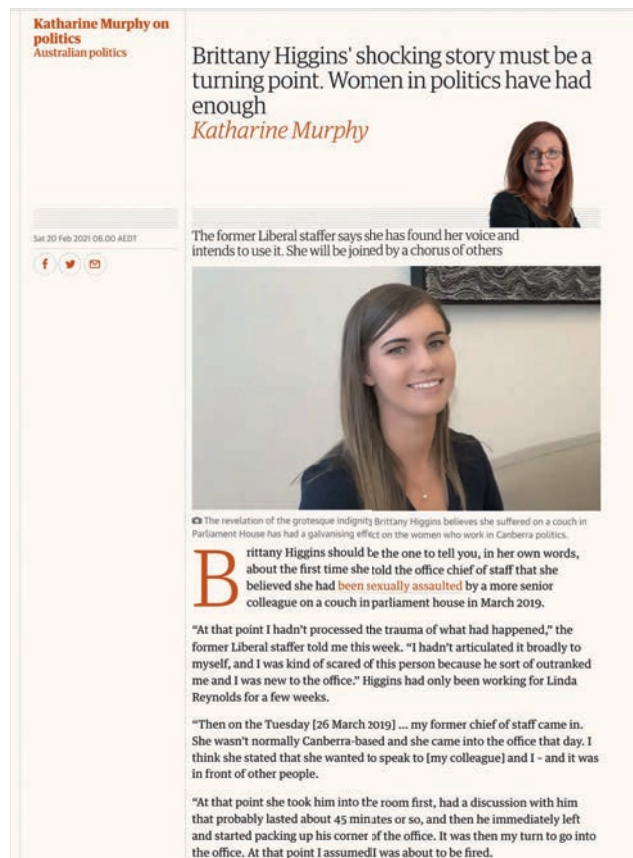
We are the custodians of excellence in reporting in Australia, working independently with all media organisations to encourage journalism of the highest ethical standard.

Each year, hundreds of journalists, editors and producers give their time to judge our awards. Thank you to all those who judged this year.

Sarah Abo, <i>60 Minutes</i> , Nine
Mark Baker, AP
Nick Batzias, Good Thing Productions
Alice Brennan, <i>Background Briefing</i> , ABC
Bridget Brennan, ABC
Una Butorac, <i>The Feed</i> , SBS
David Chau, ABC
Tom Cliff, <i>Crikey</i>
Julie Coe, ACM
Rhanna Collins, NITV
Fiona Connolly, <i>Woman's Day</i>
Mark Corcoran, ex-ABC
Danielle Cronin, ABC News Digital
Sarah Curnow, ABC Investigations
Mark Davies, ABC
Mary Davison, Nine
Suzanne Dredge, <i>7.30</i> , ABC
Andrew Drummond, AAP
Tom Dusevic, <i>The Australian</i>
Anton Emdin, illustrator
Anton Enus, SBS
Kieran Gilbert, Sky News
Peter Gleeson, Sky News
Ricardo Goncalves, SBS World News
Phil Goyen, Seven
Michelle Griffin, <i>The Age</i>
Rashell Habib, Ten
Madeline Hayman-Reber, freelance
Phil Hemingway, ABC WA
Anna Henderson, SBS
Amanda Hoh, ABC
Judy Horacek, cartoonist
Antoun Issa, <i>Guardian Australia</i>
Bridie Jabour, <i>Guardian Australia</i>
Sandra Jackson, <i>The West Australian</i>
Anita Jacoby, media executive and award-winning producer
Alex Johnston, WIN News Tasmania
Rae Johnston, NITV
Chris Jones, <i>The Courier-Mail</i>
David King, <i>The Age</i>
Kylie Lang, <i>The Courier-Mail</i>
Angus Llewellyn, <i>The Project</i> , Ten

Mark Llewellyn, Seven
Joanna Mather, <i>The Australian Financial Review</i>
Grant McArthur, <i>Herald Sun</i>
Barbara McGrady, photographer
Heidi Murphy, 3AW
Oliver Murray, news.com.au
Sean Nicholls, <i>4 Corners</i> , ABC
Renee Nowytarger, photographer
Gareth Parker, 6PR
Luke Pearson, Indigenous X
Steve Pennells, freelance investigative journalist
Jodan Perry, NITV
Jo Puccini, ABC
Nick Ralston, <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
Hugh Riminton, Ten
Billy Rule, <i>The West Australian</i>
Stefanie Sgroi, <i>60 Minutes</i> , Nine
Ben Smee, <i>Guardian Australia</i>
Annika Smethurst, <i>The Age</i>
Mike Smithson, Seven SA
Danie Sprague, <i>The Age</i>
Tom Steinfort, <i>60 Minutes</i> , Nine
Michelle Stephenson, Nova 96.9 Newsroom
Lia Timson, <i>The Age</i>
Brian Thomson, SBS
Sarah Thornton, <i>The Project</i> , Ten
Helen Trinca, <i>The Australian</i>
Michael Usher, Seven
Tracy Vo, Nine
Liz Walsh, <i>The Advertiser</i>
Raj Wakeling, <i>The Project</i> , Ten
Paul Walker, Seven
Chad Watson, ACM
Kathryn Wicks, <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
Mark Willacy, ABC
Cameron Williams, Nine

COMMENTARY, ANALYSIS, OPINION AND CRITIQUE



Katharine Murphy

Guardian Australia, "Brittany Higgins' shocking story must be a turning point. Women in politics have had enough", "Canberra's pale, stale and male tribe is missing the moment - as it did with Julia Gillard's misogyny speech" and "Scott Morrison's efforts to engage with women are more 'me' than mea culpa"



Katharine Murphy wrote her three columns in the immediate aftermath of allegations by the former Liberal staffer Brittany Higgins that she was raped by a more senior male colleague in Parliament House while working for the then Defence Industry Minister Linda Reynolds. Murphy seized the "change moment" that Higgins presented to the Australian Parliament and society, determined to call out the government's initial reaction of turning to spin and media management with her precision analysis and persistent plain speaking.

Katharine Murphy has worked in the Parliamentary Press Gallery since 1996 for *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Australian*, *The Age* and, currently, for *Guardian Australia* as political editor and Canberra bureau chief. Murphy has twice won the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery Journalist of the Year, most recently in 2020. She is the author of *On Disruption* and *Quarterly Essay: The End of Certainty*, *Scott Morrison and Pandemic Politics*. This is her first Walkley Award.

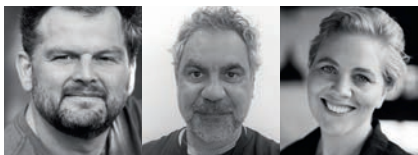
JUDGES' COMMENTS

Powerful and well written, Katharine Murphy's articles delivered a strong message with clarity, accessibility and readability. She expressed the mood of women and provided a clear insight into the Prime Minister's Office.

WALKLEY DOCUMENTARY AWARD

Ivan O'Mahoney, Wayne Blair and Nel Minchin

Firestarter - The Story of Bangarra,
In Films, ABC



This documentary marks Bangarra Dance Theatre's 30th anniversary, interweaving three threads: the history of the company itself, the social-political context, and the personal narrative of the three Aboriginal brothers at the heart of the company's rise – Stephen, Russell and David Page. The filmmaking team worked hard over three years to gain access to the company and build trust with them, and to tell the story with cultural sensitivity.

Producer Ivan O'Mahoney is the co-founder of In Films, a NSW-based documentary production company. O'Mahoney was a UN peacekeeper and lawyer in Europe before switching careers. A Walkley-winning documentary-maker, he has worked in longform storytelling at CNN, BBC and leading independent production companies.

Writer and director Wayne Blair's other recent film credits include *The Sapphires*,

Septembers of Shiraz and *Top End Wedding*. As an actor, his role in television series *Mystery Road* earned him a 2018 AACTA Award. He co-directed the second season of *Mystery Road* with Warwick Thornton.

Nel Minchin is writer, director and co-producer of *Firestarter - The Story of Bangarra*, her debut feature documentary. Her TV documentaries include AACTA-nominated *Matilda and Me*, *Making Muriel* and *Capturing Cricket: Steve Waugh in India* for the ABC.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Interweaving exquisite dance scenes with the story of the Page brothers, who made Bangarra an international phenomenon, *Firestarter* is staggeringly beautiful and emotionally affecting. A flawless piece of work.



Congratulations to this year's **Walkley Award winners** and **finalists**

The NSW Government is proud to continue its support of groundbreaking, world-class journalism by being a partner of the **2021 Walkley Awards** in NSW.

WALKLEY BOOK AWARD

Kate Holden

The Winter Road, Black Inc



This book explores the 2014 killing of environmental officer Glen Turner by 80-year-old farmer Ian Turnbull outside Croppa Creek, New South Wales, and the legacy of land management since colonial settlement that led to the tragedy.

Kate Holden spent four years on *The Winter Road*, piecing together the crime from media fragments, archives, court documents and interviews. The book amalgamates journalism, historical research, crime and political reportage, all while honouring the tragedy at its heart.

Kate Holden is the author of *In My Skin: A memoir* (Text, 2005) and *The Romantic: Italian Nights and Days* (Text, 2010).

Holden wrote a popular column for *The Age* for several years and has published essays, short stories and literary

criticism in various journals and anthologies, appearing recently with portraits and features in *The Saturday Paper*. She lives in the Illawarra.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Kate Holden's exposition of an environmental officer's murder on a lonely road is part thriller and part meditation on Australia's landscape, culture and politics as legacies of its settler past. Drawing together true crime, history and botany at the place where journalism and literature meet, this is an extraordinary work of storytelling.



Banki Haddock Fiora is a proud supporter of The Walkley Foundation and the work it does promoting excellence in journalism.

**BANKI
HADDUCK
FIORA**

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO JOURNALISM

George Negus

There are few journalists in Australia as recognisable as George Negus. Known for his charisma, his peerless and fearless approach, and his signature moustache, he has reported through decades of technological, political and social change.

He has asked the hardest questions of world leaders, movie stars, business executives and sporting heroes.

But George was a late starter to journalism. After going to Indooroopilly State High School he studied at the University of Queensland and became a high-school teacher.

He got his first reporting job at 28, but it wasn't long before Australians were taking notice of his exciting storytelling style as the teacher-turned-reporter travelled the nation and the world in search of the great yarn.

For decades he was in the front row, witnessing historic events first hand, and reporting back to a grateful Australian audience.

He interviewed the newsmakers of the day – Thatcher, Gaddafi, Gorbachev, Bhutto, Tutu, Hawke, Keating, Howard, Streep, Redford, Spielberg, Freeman, Hogan and many, many more.

He has worked for many news organisations – *The Australian*, *The Australian Financial Review*, SBS, Channel Nine and Channel 10. He was a reporter on the ABC's *This Day Tonight* and Nine's *60 Minutes*, the first presenter of *Foreign Correspondent* on the ABC and the presenter of *Dateline* on SBS.

In later years, he set up his own production company and continued to pursue the stories he loved.

Negus was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2015. He was honoured for his significant service to the media as a journalist and television presenter, and to conservation and the environment. When he accepted that award, Negus said he was grateful to the many



journalists, camera crews and production staff who helped him achieve great things over the years.

He told the ABC he'd always been intrigued by the "why" of things, even before he set out on a career where he was constantly asking: "Why? Why do things happen? Why do people do that? Why don't they?"

Over the years, he has assisted countless journalists and mentored younger staff, passing on his wisdom, his experience and his skill.

Those who know him say he's stayed true to his journalistic principles and to his political principles, based on a fair go for ordinary people.

He joined the Australian Journalists Association, as it was then, on March 31, 1969 and remained a solid union member until his retirement just a few years ago.

– Karen Percy

News Corp Australia

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the 2021 Walkley Awards

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2021 Walkley Mentees: Top row L-R: Dion Georgopoulos, ACM; Mawunyo Gbogbo, ABC; Heidi Heck, Tasmania Times & Dynamic Business; Nic Huntington, freelance; Erin Parke, ABC Regional. Bottom row L - R: Suzi O'Shea, freelance; Ruby Prosser Scully, The Medical Republic; Navin Sam Regi, freelance; Maram Ismail, SBS Radio; Samuel Yang, ABC.

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The Walkley Foundation Ltd fund is a tax-deductible fund listed on the Australian Government's Register of Cultural Organisations maintained under Subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Left: L-R: Jacoby-Walkley Scholarship recipients Lydia Bilton, Ella McCrindle and Annalise Bolt with the scholarship's founding supporter Anita Jacoby AM. Right: 2019 Overall Young Journalist of the Year winner Oliver Gordon accepts his award from philanthropist John B Fairfax AO.



66TH WALKLEY AWARD FINALISTS

PRINT/TEXT NEWS REPORT

Award Partner Media Super

- **Natassia Chrysanthos**, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, “Hundreds of Sydney students claim they were sexually assaulted”, “‘Pretty dark culture’: Sydney boys’ school heads express regret over rape claims” and “Rape culture reckoning as wave of sexual assault claims unleashed”
- **Kate McClymont**, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, “The lady vanishes: Melissa Caddick and the missing millions”
- **Ellen Whinnett, Lillian Saleh, Kelvin Healey and Valerie White**, *The Daily Telegraph, Herald Sun, The Courier-Mail and The Advertiser*, “The ANOM Files”

PUBLIC SERVICE JOURNALISM

Award Partner Sydney Airport

- **Avani Dias, Ali Russell, Ange McCormack and Laura McAuliffe**, *4 Corners*, ABC TV and *triple j Hack*, ABC Radio, “Tinder: A predators’ playground”, “Federal government meets with Tinder after ABC investigation” and “Tinder changes safety policies after Hack investigation”
- **Lisa Wilkinson and The Project Team**, *The Project*, Ten, “Brittany Higgins”, “Lisa Wilkinson editorial” and “Canberra March4Justice”
- **Naaman Zhou**, *Guardian Australia*, “Australia’s delivery deaths: The riders who never made it and the families left behind”, “‘They don’t have brakes, the tyres are gone’: Food delivery companies accused of bike safety failures” and “Uber Eats riders earning as little as \$5 for deliveries crossing multiple NSW suburbs”

INNOVATION

Award Partner Google News Initiative

- **Kylie Boltin, Ella Rubeli, Ravi Vasavan and Emma Anderson**, *SBS*, “Ravi and Emma”
- **Matilda Boseley**, *Guardian Australia*, “Guardian Australia TikTok”
- **Emma Morris, Samuel Tate, Genelle Weule, Nathan Bazley and the Mt Resilience Team**, *ABC*, “Mt Resilience”

HEADLINE, CAPTION OR HOOK

Award Partner Australian Community Media

- **Duska Sulicich**, *The Age*, “Michael rolled, the vote assured, Hallelujah!”, “It’s all a bit cray-cray” and “The Art of the Steal”
- **Chris Tinkler**, *Herald Sun*, “Scorn in the USA”, “Nightmare on Flinders St” and “Waste Gate Tunnel”
- **Cameron Wilson**, *Crikey*, “Where Prince and Tiësto meet Hillsong and Tay-Tay: What we can learn from Scott Morrison’s public Spotify account”, “Australians buy animal wormer Ivermectin on Facebook and Telegram to treat COVID” and “How Australia’s tattoo community is taking on a law it says could kill the industry”

FEATURE WRITING LONG (OVER 4000 WORDS)

Award Partner Facebook

- **Tim Elliott**, *Good Weekend*, Nine, “Knives out”
- **Melissa Fyfe**, *Good Weekend*, Nine, “The death of Ashleigh Petrie”
- **Andrew Quilty**, *The Monthly*, “The worst form of defence: New revelations of Australian war crimes in Afghanistan”

FEATURE WRITING SHORT (UNDER 4000 WORDS)

Award Partner *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*

- **Megan Lehmann**, *The Australian*, “The aftermath”
- **Karen Middleton**, *The Saturday Paper*, “Exit Afghanistan: Fear and retribution as Taliban takes control”
- **Tom Patterson**, *The Australian*, “Searching for a lost soul”

COVERAGE OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Award Partner PwC Indigenous Consulting

- **Stefan Armbruster**, *SBS World News*, “Second round vaccinations in Torres Strait”, “Anger in the Torres Strait over Scott Morrison’s undelivered COVID-19 vaccine announcement” and “Australia spent \$13 million on this security post in the Torres Strait. A year on, it’s still empty”
- **Karla Grant, Julie Nimmo, Michael Carey, Mark Bannerman and the Living Black team**, *Living Black*, NITV, “Taken”, “Missing Pieces” and “Heritage Victory”
- **Laura Murphy-Oates, Lorena Allam, David Maurice Smith and Jeremy Worrall**, *Guardian Australia*, “Australia’s anguish: The Indigenous kids trapped behind bars”, “The WA cops rounding up Indigenous kids: A ‘toxic and racist environment’” and “‘Hell scared’: How a terrified homeless boy found himself locked up alone in the ‘hole’”

COVERAGE OF COMMUNITY OR REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Award Partner BHP

- **Andrew Messenger**, *Northern Daily Leader*, “‘You feel so powerless’: Little room for kids in rural mental health”, “Banksia Mental Health Unit: Children’s services ruled not ‘economies of scale’ in plan for new mental health unit” and “Tamworth Banksia Mental Health modelling says New England North West won’t need more general-purpose beds until 2031”
- **Nathan Morris and Kath Sullivan**, *Landline*, ABC, “Welcome back, Darling”
- **Cherie von Horschner**, *Barrier Truth*, “Wilcannia abandoned”

CARTOON

Award Partner Epsom

- **Jon Kudelka**, *The Saturday Paper*, “Duty of Care”
- **David Pope**, *The Canberra Times*, “Rollout de Vax”
- **David Rowe**, *The Australian Financial Review*, “Spineless”

SPORTS JOURNALISM

- **Jessica Halloran, Sharri Markson and Claire Harvey**, *The Australian*, “Drugs, sex, domestic violence: Football’s dark cover-up”, “Misguided star waiting at home of rival to exact revenge” and “Crime Squad on trail of NRL cover-up over Sam Burgess claims”
- **Caitlin Shea, Greg Hassall and Andrew Cooke**, *Australian Story*, ABC, “Luc Longley: One Giant Leap”
- **Michael Warner**, *Herald Sun*, “‘Do Better’: The secret Collingwood racism report”

SPORT PHOTOGRAPHY

- **Alex Coppel**, *Herald Sun*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Courier-Mail* and *The Advertiser*, “The Games that Had to Happen”
- **Michael Dodge**, *Tennis Australia* and *Instagram*, “Unguarded Moments”
- **Jason Edwards**, *Herald Sun* and *The Australian*, “The Crux”

RADIO/AUDIO NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

Award Partner ABC

- **Rachel Mealey**, *AM* and *The World Today*, ABC, “Port Macquarie Floods”
- **Sally Sara and Victoria Pengilley**, *RN Breakfast* and *The World Today*, ABC, “Afghanistan Interviews”
- **Mark Willacy**, *AM*, ABC, “Who Dares Kills”

RADIO/AUDIO FEATURE

- **Camille Bianchi and Marc Wright**, *Apple Podcasts*, *Spotify*, *Acast.com*, “The Nurse”
- **Angus Grigg and Lap Phan**, *The Australian Financial Review*, “The Sure Thing”
- **Alex Mann, Kevin Nguyen and the Background Briefing team**, *Background Briefing*, *Radio National*, “The Base Tapes”

PRODUCTION

- **Aimee Amiga, Matthew Absalom-Wong and Cormac Lally**, *Instagram*, *Facebook* and *theage.com.au*, “Nazis Next Door: Social and Digital Delivery”
- **Rhiona-Jade Armont and the 101 East team**, *Al Jazeera English*, “This is Myanmar’s State of Fear”
- **Patrick Forrest, Elise Potaka, David Ma and Calliste Weitenberg**, *The Feed*, *SBS*, “Faking Influence - TV, digital interactive and Instagram”

SCOOP OF THE YEAR

Award Partner Nine News

- **Samantha Maiden**, news.com.au, “Open Secret: The Brittany Higgins story”
- **Michael Warner**, *Herald Sun*, “‘Do Better’: The secret Collingwood racism report”
- **Ellen Whinnett**, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Herald Sun*, *The Advertiser* and *The Courier-Mail*, “The ANOM Files”

COVERAGE OF A MAJOR NEWS EVENT OR ISSUE

Award Partner Sky News Australia

- **Samantha Maiden and the news.com.au team**, news.com.au, “Open Secret: The Brittany Higgins story”
- **Louise Milligan and the Four Corners Team**, *4 Corners*, ABC, “The Canberra Bubble”
- **Laura Tingle and James Elton**, *7.30*, ABC, “Women, politics and accountability”

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

- **Kate Geraghty**, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, “COVID-19 ICU”
- **Justin McManus**, *The Age*, “Anti-Lockdown Protest”
- **Brook Mitchell**, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, “Sydney Anti-Lockdown Protest”

BUSINESS JOURNALISM

Award Partner ING

- **Angus Grigg and Lap Phan**, *The Australian Financial Review*, “The Sure Thing”
- **Max Mason and Jonathan Shapiro**, *The Australian Financial Review*, “Revealed: Where alleged fraudster Bill Pappas is holed up”, “Miami yachts and luxury cars: Forum’s web of assets” and “On the trail of Bill Pappas and Westpac’s missing \$285m”
- **Caitlyn Rintoul**, *The West Australian*, “Police investigating alleged sexual assault at BHP’s South Flank mine near Newman”, “WA mining giants unite for apology to female mine workers and back calls for sex assault inquiry” and “Mine site sexual harassment inquiry: Submission shows BHP sacked dozens of WA workers”

FEATURE/PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY

Award Partner Canva

- **Scott Barbour**, ausopen.com, “2021 Australian Open”
- **Jake Nowakowski**, *Herald Sun* and *The Weekend Australian Magazine*, “Superheroes in Lockdown”
- **Dean Sewell**, *The Sun-Herald*, “Of Mice and Men”

TELEVISION/VIDEO: CAMERAWORK

- **Dean Brosche**, *The Feed*, SBS, “The Button Man: A murderous monster, or a quiet recluse?”
- **Simon Hydzyk and Matt Anderson**, *7NEWS*, *Sunrise* and *The Latest*, Seven “Cyclone Seroja Coverage”
- **Andy Taylor**, ABC TV, “Exposed - The Ghost Train Fire”

TELEVISION/VIDEO NEWS REPORTING

Award Partner Seven

- **Amelia Adams**, *Today* and *Nine News 6pm*, Nine, “Capitol Attack”
- **Tim Arvier**, *Nine News 6pm* and *Today*, Nine, “Ambulance Delays”
- **Peter Fegan and Rebeka Powell**, *Nine News 6pm*, Nine, “The Investigation of Andrew Laming”

TELEVISION/VIDEO CURRENT AFFAIRS SHORT (LESS THAN 20 MINUTES)

Award Partner SBS

- **Christine Ahern**, *A Current Affair*, Nine, “Epping Disgrace”
- **Kathryn Diss**, *7.30*, ABC TV, “Inside America’s COVID crisis”
- **Elise Potaka, Calliste Weitenberg, David Ma and Patrick Forrest**, *The Feed*, SBS, “Faking Influence”

TELEVISION/VIDEO CURRENT AFFAIRS LONG (MORE THAN 20 MINUTES)

Award Partner TEN News First and The Project

- **Sarah Ferguson, Tony Jones, Patricia Drum, and Lauren Day**, *4 Corners*, ABC, “Fox and the Big Lie”
- **Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer**, *60 Minutes*, Nine, “Nazis Next Door”
- **Lisa Wilkinson, Angus Llewellyn and Darryl Brown**, *The Project*, Network Ten, “Brittany Higgins”

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Award Partner AGL

- **Nick McKenzie and Joel Tozer**, *60 Minutes* and *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Nine, “Nazis Next Door”, “Inside Racism HQ: How home-grown neo-Nazis are plotting a white revolution” and “From kickboxing to Adolf Hitler: The neo-Nazi plan to recruit angry young men”
- **Louise Milligan, Lucy Carter, Peter Cronau and Jeanavive McGregor**, *4 Corners*, ABC, “Inside the Canberra Bubble”, “Scott Morrison, senators and AFP told of historical rape allegation against Cabinet minister” and “Bursting the Canberra Bubble”

- **Ben Schneiders**, *The Age* and *The Sunday Age*, “Scientology stashes millions in Australia”, “Scientology is shrinking fast and getting richer. How is this possible?” and “The peculiar experience of being targeted by Scientology”

COMMENTARY, ANALYSIS, OPINION AND CRITIQUE

Award Partner Thomson Geer Lawyers

- **Waleed Aly**, *The Monthly*, *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, “Woke politics and power”, “Get to the root of the mess” and “It makes no sense to ask ‘why Melbourne?’”
- **Tom Dusevic**, *The Australian*, “Why we must temper the joy on vaccine”, “PM delivers a rocket as vax debate goes feral” and “Where the bloody hell are the vaccines, Prime Minister?”
- **Katharine Murphy**, *Guardian Australia*, “Brittany Higgins’ shocking story must be a turning point. Women in politics have had enough”, “Canberra’s pale, stale and male tribe is missing the moment – as it did with Julia Gillard’s misogyny speech” and “Scott Morrison’s efforts to engage with women are more ‘me’ than mea culpa”

WALKLEY DOCUMENTARY AWARD SHORTLIST

Award Partner NSW Government

- **Jacob Hickey and Darren Dale**, *Addicted Australia*, Blackfella Films and SBS
- **Ivan O’Mahoney, Wayne Blair and Nel Minchin**, *Firestarter - The Story of Bangarra*, In Films, ABC
- **Helen Morrison and Dean Gibson**, *Incarceration Nation*, Bacon Factory Films, Bent3land Productions and NITV

WALKLEY BOOK AWARD SHORTLIST

Award Partner Banki Haddock Fiora

- **Richard Flanagan**, *Toxic: The rotting underbelly of the Tasmanian salmon industry*, Penguin
- **Kate Holden**, *The Winter Road*, Black Inc.
- **Stuart Rintoul**, *Lowitja: The authorised biography of Lowitja O’Donoghue*, Allen & Unwin

NIKON-WALKLEY PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Award Partner Nikon

- **Alex Coppel**, *Herald Sun*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Courier-Mail*
- **Jason Edwards**, *Herald Sun*
- **Christopher Hopkins**, *The Age*, *The Guardian*, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *Al Jazeera*

NIKON PORTRAIT PRIZE



Brian Cassey

The Australian, “The Yarrick Family of Kunhanhaa”



The judges felt Brian Cassey’s stunning family portrait told them a great deal about its subjects, from where they live to how they communicate. They said: “It’s not easy to get that many people in a shot, compose an image and get it to work. One child makes eye contact but everyone else is doing their own thing. The lighting is just beautiful and the circular motion of the composition means the faces keep drawing the eye around, finding something new each time.”

Cassey said he took the photo on assignment with *The Australian* at the remote Indigenous community on Mornington Island – local name Kunhanhaa – in the Gulf of Carpentaria in Australia’s far north.

“Our time on the island was a matter of just a few hours ... flight in the morning, fly out early afternoon. The main reason for our visit was to document the massive overcrowding that was prevalent on the island ... Many houses slept over 20 extended family residents per night in small, basic two-bedroom houses.

“A visit to the Yarrick family home yielded an opportunity ... Mum Shaylene Yarrick described and showed us where the family children slept in rough and ready beds in the lounge room ... while the rest of the house was crowded each night with members of their extended family ... up to 22 each evening in this instance.”

Image: Mornington Island – also known as Kunhanhaa – is an Indigenous community in the Gulf of Carpentaria in remote northern Australia. Many of the approximately 1000 Lardil, Kaiaidilt and Yangkaal residents on the island live in sub-standard, overcrowded houses. Frequently more than 20 people live in a single two-bedroom home, leading to social and psychological problems. In this image, mother Shaylene Yarrick beds down five of the children who sleep in the lounge of her two-bedroom house, which regularly sleeps more than 20 members of her extended family.

NIKON PHOTO OF THE YEAR



Kate Geraghty

The Sydney Morning Herald,
“Fighting COVID-19 Delta”



Image: A COVID-19 positive patient with the Delta variant receives treatment in St Vincent's Hospital's Intensive Care Unit, Sydney, NSW – July 13, 2021.

The judges felt Kate Geraghty's photo epitomised the year. “Provocative, strong and summarises the year that was: illness, hospitalisation, isolation, family not being able to visit. This image is a huge achievement.”

Geraghty said: “With careful consideration and planning, St Vincent's Hospital granted me exclusive access to a part of the Intensive Care Unit to document their COVID-19 response and the care being given to COVID-19 patients with the highly contagious Delta variant.

“This is the first image encapsulating the pain and isolation of those people who are positive cases and are fighting the virus in the ICU ward of one of Australia's busiest hospitals. As a photographer, I knew I needed to go to the epicentre of this pandemic.

“After passing a fit test, which determines the face mask's ability to retain its seal, and being instructed and monitored on donning and doffing Personal Protective Equipment, I was escorted to the door of the ICU. Wearing the same equipment used by ICU staff – hair net, face mask, face shield, disposable clinical gown and gloves – I entered a very calm environment where staff were tending to their patients' every need.

“Carrying only one camera and lens to limit the possibility of taking the virus out of the ICU, I kept socially distanced from everyone and worked quickly while maintaining the dignity of the patients.

“I introduced myself to the staff and patients (all of whom were conscious), explaining that I was from *The Sydney Morning Herald* and that with their permission we wanted to show the public the impact that the Delta variant of COVID-19 was having on some people. More importantly, as Sydney was in the midst of a lockdown, I wanted to show the patients' families how their loved ones were being cared for.”



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as the pinnacle of journalistic achievement**

1978	Catherine Martin, <i>The West Australian</i>	2002	Anne Davies & Kate McClymont, <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
1979	Ron Tandberg, <i>The Age</i>	2003	Richard Moran, <i>National Nine News</i>
1980	Leslie Grant Heading, ABC TV Hobart	2004	Neil Chenoweth, Shraga Elam, Colleen Ryan, Andrew Main & Rosemarie Graffagnini, <i>The Australian Financial Review</i>
1981	John Lewis, <i>The Newcastle Herald</i>	2005	Tim Palmer, ABC TV
1982	Kerry O'Brien, ATN Channel 7	2006	Liz Jackson, Lin Buckfield & Peter Cronau, <i>Four Corners</i> , ABC TV
1983	Mary Delahunty & Alan Hall, <i>Four Corners</i> , ABC TV	2007	Hedley Thomas, <i>The Australian</i>
1984	Jan Mayman, freelance	2008	Ross Coulthart & Nick Farrow, <i>Sunday</i>
1985	Chris Masters & Bruce Belsham, <i>Four Corners</i> , ABC TV	2009	Gary Hughes, <i>The Australian</i>
1986	Ron Tandberg, <i>The Age</i>	2010	Laurie Oakes, Nine Network
1987	Phil Dickie, <i>The Courier Mail</i>	2011	Sarah Ferguson, Michael Doyle & Anne Worthington, <i>Four Corners</i> , ABC TV
1988	Norman Swan, ABC TV	2012	Steve Pennells, <i>The West Australian</i>
1989	Alan Tate & Paul Bailey, <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>	2013	Joanne McCarthy, <i>The Newcastle Herald</i>
1990	Janet Hawley, <i>Good Weekend</i>	2014	Adele Ferguson, Deb Masters & Mario Christodoulou, <i>Four Corners</i> & Fairfax Media
1991	Monica Attard, ABC Radio	2015	Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Sam Clark & Max Murch, <i>Four Corners</i> , ABC TV
1992	Jenny Brockie, ABC TV	2016	Andrew Quilty, freelance / <i>Foreign Policy</i>
1993	Phillip Chubb & Sue Spencer, ABC TV	2017	Michael Bachelard & Kate Geraghty, Fairfax Media
1994	Peter McEvoy, ABC Radio National	2018	Hedley Thomas & Slade Gibson, <i>The Australian</i>
1995	David Bentley, <i>The Courier-Mail</i>	2019	Anthony Dowsley & Patrick Carlyon, <i>Herald Sun</i>
1996	Peter Hartcher, <i>The Australian Financial Review</i>	2020	Mark Willacy & the ABC TV Investigations- <i>Four Corners</i> Team,
1997	Mary-Louise O'Callaghan, <i>The Australian</i>	2021	Samantha Maiden, news.com.au
1998	Pamela Williams, <i>The Australian Financial Review</i>		
1999	Richard Ackland, Deborah Richards & Anne Connolly, <i>Media Watch</i> , ABC TV		
2000	Mark Davis, <i>Dateline</i> , SBS TV		
2001	Andrew Rule, <i>The Age</i>		



Congratulations to this year's **Walkley Award** **winners and finalists**

The NSW Government is a proud partner of the **2021 Walkley Awards** in NSW. The past year has taken an immense toll on so many in our communities, and the ability of quality journalism to inform, inspire and challenge has never been more important.

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