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Queensland
Clarion
awards

2017 WINNERS & FINALISTS; JUDGES' COMMENTS

All Media - Business Journalism

Sponsored by Brisbane Airport Corporation

Winner:

- Liam Walsh: *The Courier-Mail*: Caught in a corrupt web

Highly Commended:

- Mark Ludlow: *The Australian Financial Review*: Slow-Motion Shambles

Finalists:

- Peter McCutcheon: *ABC TV's 7.30 Program*: Freenet Betrayal
- Mark Solomons: *Brisbane Times*: Investigations

Judges' comment:

In Liam Walsh's series of strong entries in this year's Clarions, 'Caught in a corrupt web' is a stand-out. Contending with a scarcity of documents and the reluctance of officials to talk, Walsh revealed how Queensland's largest engineering company became entangled in a complex corruption web that stretched to Ecuador. The result is a compelling series of stories that shed light on a complex issue in an accessible way for readers. The judges acknowledge the level of research involved in writing the articles, the degree of difficulty in confirming the details, and the impact of the stories in selecting Walsh as the winner.

All Media - Commentary, Analysis, Opinion & Critique

Sponsored by Three Plus

Winner:

- Sherele Moody: *The Daily Telegraph's Rendezview, Various*: Agent of Change

Highly Commended:

- Paul Syvret: *The Courier-Mail*: Tuesday view

Finalist:

- Kylie Lang: *The Courier-Mail, The Daily Telegraph's Rendezview*: Equality, Education and the Politics of Fear

Judges' comment:

This category drew an exceptional standard of entry, making judging a difficult task. But in this high quality field, Sherele Moody's pieces drew on harrowing personal experience to challenge and confront the reader on some of society's darkest themes. Whether it is tackling homophobia, exploring domestic violence or showing compassion for the besieged mother of a murdered girl, Moody combines empathy with powerful prose to get to the heart of the matter. But it is her courage in confronting and documenting her own haunted past that most stands her apart. A survivor of a terrible



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betrayal, Moody has used her experiences to educate and inform her readers and to reach out to others who have suffered abuse.

All Media - Health and Wellness

Winner:

- Elissa Lawrence: *QWeekend, The Courier-Mail*: True Grit

Finalists:

- Leanne Edmestone: *QWeekend, The Courier-Mail Online*: Post-natal Depression
- Leonie Mellor: *ABC TV's Australia Wide*: Living with Tourette's

Judges' comment:

This was a fiercely contested field of work, and the judges had difficulty choosing a winner as the standard of contribution was exceptional. However, the judges agreed that Elissa Lawrence's piece on Ali France's horrific accident and subsequent physical and mental turnaround, as well as her newfound activism for disability and refugee rights, best addressed the category criteria.

All Media - Broadcast Interview

Winner:

- Bruce Atkinson: *Various ABC Radio programs*: Drama at Long Tan

Finalists:

- Annie Guest: *ABC Radio's AM, ABC News Online*: Cyclone Debbie and the Sting in her Tail: Personal Stories of Disaster Survival
- Nance Haxton: *ABC Radio's PM*: People with a Disability Still Not Equal Before the Law

Judges' comment:

Bruce Atkinson's series of reports from Vietnam – where a group of Australian veterans had travelled for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan – illuminated both the deep feelings the veterans had about the battle, and the regard with which they held Atkinson as a journalist and friend. The Vietnamese Government, at almost the very last minute, refused permission for the veterans to hold a service at the battle site, presumably believing that the visit was triumphalist – celebrating the deaths of hundreds of Vietnamese soldiers rather than commemorating the deaths of 18 Australian soldiers, as well as the futility and ghastliness of war. Atkinson brilliantly captured the intense emotions of the veterans who had travelled to pay their respects to fallen comrades. His knowledge of the battle, his capacity to analyse the issues plus the trust the veterans placed in him, allowed him to give listeners an unparalleled insight.



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All Media - Indigenous Issues Reporting

Sponsored by Queensland Council of Unions

Winner:

- Michael Atkin: *ABC TV's 7.30 Program*: Rough justice: The treatment of young indigenous offenders in North QLD

Highly Commended:

- Solua Middleton, Yale Macgillivray, Scott Gamble, Bronwyn Purvis, Lorena Allam, Dan Battley (acknowledgements to content makers from ABC Regional, ABC Radio Indigenous Unit and ABC News teams): *ABC Online*: Right Wrongs

Finalist:

- Domanii Cameron: *Townsville Bulletin*: Loss of Life

Commended:

- Aaron Smith: *Torres News*: Ailan Adoption

Judges' comment:

This was a stand-out winner. This series of reports set the agenda about the treatment of young Indigenous people in detention and in the community in North QLD. The airing of the stories with graphic images of abuse at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre sparked an immediate government inquiry, which led to widespread change. The Government's release of a heavily redacted report led to secondary action as 7.30 pursued it under RTI and forced the release of more information. Not settling for that, 7.30 is continuing to pursue the full report. This took careful navigation of legal and ethical issues, gaining the trust of people abused by the system and honouring that trust to tell their stories. We also highly commend ABC's group entry, Right Wrongs. This extraordinary digital feature commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum. It is the product of extensive research delivered in 50 bite-sized stories and well worth looking up.

All Media - Most Outstanding Journalism Student

Sponsored by Media Super

Winner:

- Jessica Stewart: *QUT*: Body of Work

Finalists:

- Ashleigh Dwan: *QUT*: Body of Work
- Melissa Halsey: *USC*: Body of Work
- Lily Nothling: *QUT*: Body of Work

Judges' comment:



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The judges were really impressed with this year's student entries, which showed an eye for audience engagement, using interactive graphics effectively to capture readers well in the digital age. Jessica Stewart was a standout and appears on track to become a solid reporter in our industry. Her strong news sense is evident in the way she puts her stories together. Her voice is clear and nuanced for each subject matter. The other finalists all submitted fine bodies of work. Lily Nothing has an easy-to-read knack of storytelling. She takes data and converts it into human interest stories. Ashleigh Dwan presented work across a wide range of news, from light to international affairs and displayed a touch beyond her years of experience. Melissa Halsey's pieces, written with Jessica Cook, on same-sex marriage and safe schools stood out as timely and well executed. There were excellent videos to accompany well written copy on topical issues.

All Media - Multicultural Queensland Award

Sponsored by Media Super

Winner:

- Kristine Taylor, Roger Carter, Greg Hassall: *ABC TV's Australian Story: Australian Story: A Field of Dreams*

Highly Commended:

- Allyson Horn: *ABC TV's Australia Wide: Multicultural Queensland: Body of Work*

Finalists:

- Leanne Edmestone: *QWeekend: Colour Blind Cancer*
- Dominique Schwartz: *ABC TV's 7pm News: Iraqi Cowboy*

Judges' comment:

'A Field of Dreams' was an excellent piece of storytelling, well produced and beautifully told. It illustrated a sensitive use of characters to produce empathy for both communities. It painted a sensitive portrait of a refugee community and a rural community and the real struggles both encounter in an era when refugees are political fodder and rural communities face their own struggle for survival. Many hours of work and persistence were involved in convincing the subjects to be involved in revealing their personal journey on camera. We also highly commend Allyson Horn's entry. The breadth of issues covered and stories told in her body of work was impressive, including fresh and surprising angles. The pieces were well-researched and included stories touching on a number of community issues that are important to all Australians, told from the perspective of another community.



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All Media - Rural Journalism

Sponsored by Rural Press Club

Winner:

- Dominique Schwartz: *ABC TV's 7pm News: Death Row Dingos*

Finalists:

- Eliza Goetze: *Bundaberg NewsMail: Backs to the Wall: the million-dollar battle between farmers and produce agents*
- Marty McCarthy: *ABC TV's Landline, ABC TV's 7pm News, ABC TV's News 24: Farmers reveal "nightmare" ordeal over banana biosecurity outbreak*

Judges' comment:

Dominique Schwartz's coverage of a controversial feral goat culling program stood out for its strong story-telling, mature editorial judgement and public policy impact. Assisting by excellent camerawork, Dominique dealt with sensitive and at times challenging material without resorting to sensationalism or over-simplification: a worthy winner in a highly competitive field, in which the judges struggled to reduce the list of finalists to just three.

All Media - Social Issues Reporting

Winner:

- Kirstin Murray, Roger Carter: *ABC TV's Australian Story: Tough Love*

Finalists:

- Matthew Condon: *QWeekend: The Wolston Women*
- Katherine Gregory: *ABC Radio's The World Today: Nauru and Manus - Australia's shame*

Commended:

- Geoff Egan: *Gladstone Observer: 'We could have protected a generation of coal miners'*

Judges' comment:

The judges agreed this was a difficult category to pick a winner in as all the entries were of an incredibly high standard covering a wide range of social issues. In the end, they felt Kirstin Murray's 'Tough Love' edged out the competition. The episode of Australian Story was both thought provoking and entertaining. Kirsten's ability to get the subjects to be open and honest in sharing their desires and fears with the viewer was masterful. The same could also be said of the other two finalists, who told important and harrowing stories of people held in at times hellish conditions of detention. The Judges also awarded a commendation to Geoff Egan for his work looking at the return of Black Lung in Queensland coal mines.



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All Media - Sports Journalism

Sponsored by Lion

Winner:

- Grantlee Kieza: *The Courier-Mail*: The Jeff Horn-Manny Pacquiao fight

Highly Commended:

- Phil Lutton: *Various Fairfax Media*: Doping and Drama in the Rio Olympic Pool

Finalist:

- Allyson Horn: *ABC TV's Australia Wide*: The impact of sport on everyday Queenslanders

Judges' comment:

This category attracted entries of the highest quality but the judges thought there was a standout entry and that was from Grantlee Kieza. Throughout the lead-up and coverage of the Jeff Horn-Manny Pacquiao boxing event in Brisbane, Kieza was at the forefront, moving easily between breaking news on the fight, writing general interest stories for the news section and producing insightful features which gripped the most casual of sport readers. He showed he knows the sport and the people in it intimately. Phil Luton's work at the Rio Olympics went a long way past races and gold medals. He brought the controversial subject of drugs in sport into the headlines and resisted considerable pressure to follow the issue right through. Allyson Horn displayed great storytelling and an ability to create stories that resonated with the audience.

All Media - New Journalist of the Year

Sponsored by QLD Parliamentary Media Gallery

Winner:

- Chris McMahon: *Townsville Bulletin*: Body of work

Highly Commended:

- Alexandra Blucher: *ABC TV's 7pm News, ABC News Online*: Body of work

Finalist:

- Charlie Peel: *The Courier-Mail*: Dodgy towies, Pisasale, bus tragedy and the rail fail

Judges' comment:

Chris McMahon's entry was a standout. His coverage of major crime events in North Queensland was thorough, comprehensive and well-written. Chris used his contacts and initiative to find fresh leads and new angles to produce pages of gripping content. This was all the more impressive for a young journalist, as opposed to a police reporter who has been on the beat for decades. Often his coverage was head and shoulders above his competitors, even after the stories were picked up by the national press. A number of his stories were exclusive. He also used informative graphics to add impact to his words.



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All Media - Investigative Journalism

Winner:

- Michael Atkin: *ABC TV's 7.30 Program, ABC News Online: Investigating the Rise and Fall of Careers Australia*

Highly Commended:

- David Murray, Sean Callinan: *The Courier-Mail, The Courier-Mail Online: Searching for Rachel Antonio*

Finalist:

- Kelmeny Fraser, Charlie Peel: *The Sunday Mail: The Great Towie Rip-Off Sunday Mail investigation*

Judges' comment:

'The Fall of Careers Australia' covered a major public policy issue and its impact on thousands of Australians in a highly accessible way. The investigation showed up serious flaws that led to the federal government ultimately suspending funding of the company to recruit students to do courses that were going to place them in lifetime debt while being unlikely to lead to employment. The combination of explaining the policy and then telling the story of how the scam was perpetrated was powerful journalism on an issue that usually falls outside of newsrooms' interests. The judges awarded a Highly Commended to the Rachel Antonio series in recognition of the quality of the investigation that went into rekindling an old mystery and the innovation and skill that went into presenting it digitally as well as in print.

All Media – Freelance Journalism

Sponsored by Bond University

Winner:

- Andrew McMillen: *The Weekend Australian: Body of Work*

Finalists:

- Amanda Gearing: *The Weekend Australian: Lyndal puts Australia's Spotlight on justice*
- Cameron Pegg: *The Australian: Body of work*

Judges' comment:

The quality of the entries in this category was outstanding and showed how vital freelance journalism is in our industry. Freelancers face unique challenges in researching, writing and finally "selling" their work and the top two entries, in the judges' opinion, were fine illustrations of the craft at its best. Andrew McMillan displayed his ability to take readers on a journey with compelling stories, told artfully and comprehensively. The body of work he submitted for this entry shows he can as easily delve into a sensitive human interest story as he can relate a news story to everyday Australians. Amanda Gearing used great journalistic skill in convincing her subject to reveal herself and through her delicate storytelling brought this important story to the fore. Writing for travel and the arts is an often under-rated genre in the journalism industry but Cameron Pegg demonstrates its value when done well.



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All Media - Multimedia Journalism

Sponsored by Telstra

Winner:

- David Murray, Sean Callinan: *The Courier-Mail, The Courier-Mail Online*: Searching for Rachel Antonio

Finalists:

- Simon Elvery, Digital Interactive Storytelling Team, Four Corners: *ABC News Online*: Broken Homes
- Solua Middleton, Yale Macgillivray, Scott Gamble, Bronwyn Purvis, Lorena Allam, Dan Battley (acknowledgements to content makers from ABC Regional, ABC Radio Indigenous Unit and ABC News teams): *ABC Online*: Right Wrongs

Commended:

- Felicity Caldwell: *Brisbane Times*: We asked all 89 MPs for their stances on abortion
- Simon Elvery, Catherine Hanrahan, Matthew Liddy, Josh Byrd: *ABC News Online*: Census 2016: This is Australia as 100 people

Judges' comment:

This story has led to the renewed search for the body of missing Rachel Antonio. The judges said this is excellent journalism at its core, told through the use of multi-media including an engaging podcast series. It uncovered evidence the coroner didn't. David and the team's pursuit to delve deeper into what happened to Rachel has forced Queensland Police to re-open the case and begin digging up a rubbish tip.

All Media – Cartoon Illustration or Graphic

Winner:

- Tony Bela: *The Courier-Mail*: Dreamworld Tragedy

Finalist:

- Steve Quirk: *Nine News Gold Coast*: Body of Work

Judges' comment:

At a time when the nation was wondering how four people could die on one of the most placid rides at Dreamworld, this simple graphic helped to explain how the horrific tragedy unfolded. The judges said it clearly explained what went wrong and enhanced the stories alongside it.



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Photography - News Photograph- Metropolitan

Winner:

- Annette Dew: *The Courier-Mail*: Faces of Tragedy

Finalists:

- Annette Dew: *The Courier-Mail*: Cyclone Debbie
- Liam Kidston: *The Sunday Mail*: Debbie leaves Hamilton Island topless

Judges' comment:

The only defence for Annette Dew appears to be her camera - the judges felt many photographers wouldn't have raised their lens in such "in your face" circumstances. This photo demonstrates grit and determination to stand her ground and capture the moment.

Photography - Photographic Essay

Sponsored by Media Super

Winner:

- Zak Simmonds: *Townsville Bulletin*: Crim Reality

Finalists:

- Brian Cassey: *SBS Online*: The Town at the End of the Road
- Megan Slade: *Backstory News Magazine*: Kids Gone Wild. Reclaiming childhood on the Sunshine Coast.

Judges' comment:

The judges were impressed by all three finalists in this category and felt all were worthy winners. Zak Simmonds' 'Crim Reality', however, was compelling for its use of all available light. The contrast and colour created raw and powerful emotional images showing the reality confronting police. Each picture stands alone on merit - as an essay it provided greatest impact.

Print/Text - Feature Article

Sponsored by Local Government Association of Queensland

Winner:

- Andrew McMillen: *The Weekend Australian*: Dying Wish

Highly Commended:

- Kate Kyriacou: *QWeekend*: Road to Recovery

Finalist:



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- Trent Dalton: *The Weekend Australian*: The Fight of His Life

Judges' comment:

Judges felt the standard of the features category was outstanding. Andrew McMillen's piece, titled 'Dying Wish', was a remarkable display of empathy. Addressing the important issue of being able to die at home, Andrew told the story of those helping it happen. From the moment he set the scene in the introduction, to the story's heart-wrenching conclusion, Andrew captured the emotional final days of Tony Huelsmann's life. While bringing each judge to tears might not have been the ultimate criteria which helped him win, the trust he gained from Tony and his family played a key role. His writing was of the highest standard, drawing the reader from one carefully-structured sentence to the next. It was as compelling as it was powerful. The judges would also like to acknowledge the exceptional work of Kate Kyriacou whose collection of pieces displayed fine research, and essential reading. While Andrew's story was deemed to be the best individual work, Kate's collection represented a superbly consistent standard rarely seen in modern journalism.

Print/Text - News Report

Sponsored by Nine News Brisbane

Winner:

- Mark Willacy, Alexandra Blucher: *ABC News Online*: Environment Series

Finalists:

- Kate Kyriacou: *The Courier-Mail*: Mason Lee
- Jessica Marszalek, Jason Tin, Anthony Templeton: *The Courier-Mail*: Rail Fail

Commended:

- Cindy Wockner: *The Courier-Mail*: Schapelle - The Definitive Story

Judges' comment:

Mark Willacy's series showcases writing and research excellence, persistence and the importance of keeping big corporates to account. The public stands to benefit enormously from this kind of journalism, which stands as a good reminder no-one is beyond being held to account. 'Rail Fail' is also an excellent example of this. The persistence of this campaign showcased particularly courageous reporting as the government and its minister repeatedly tried to water down the issue. The transport issues were affecting the newspaper's core audience, and with persistent reporting, exclusives, research and demanding better for its readers, the newspaper brought about change. Kate Kyriacou's report on Mason Lee was heartbreakingly well written. Kate revealed details of injuries which were so horrific, even she was shocked after 13 years as a hardened court reporter. While necessarily gruesome, her reports struck the tricky balance of revealing the sickening details with sensitivity, as well as shocking the community so much that readers were united in their grief and demand for change to the system to ensure innocent children like Mason Lee were protected. The judges would also like to commend Cindy Wockner. Rarely these days do we come across a reporter who has covered one story for more than a decade. Cindy's dedication to the Schapelle story for the past 13 years is an outstanding



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example of courageous journalism, dedication, passion, resilience and courage. It also highlights the importance of great contacts and research with her exclusive interviews with key judicial personalities in the case.

Print /Text - Best Three Headings

Sponsored by Seven Network

Winner:

- Daniel Johnson: *Qweekend Magazine/The Courier-Mail*: "Give a dog a clone", "Four Legs and a Funeral" and "Winging It at yoga can be a real gas"

Finalists:

- Sean Keeley: *The Courier-Mail*: "Why be so Nazi to me?", "Only bad for Sam as chit hits the fan", "Bunch of bowser snakes"
- Marty McCarthy: *ABC News Online*: "What these fowls lack in feathers they make up for in fashion", "Bigger is better when it comes to secret sex lives of prawns", "Pig farmer catches high-end restaurant telling porkies with menu mistake"
- Kyle Pollard: *The Courier-Mail*: "And so this is Chris-miss", "Demise, Sir Andy", "Now Nick off"

Judges' comment:

Daniel Johnson's body of work showed flair and originality. It covered a range of interesting, effective leads that were succinct and identified the real angle of the stories. The reader's attention was grabbed by the headlines, which were catchy and utilised an intelligent, humorous and clever play on words, drawing the reader in and sparking a desire to know more about the issues. They were relevant to the stories and delivered on the headline promise, which added to the reader's experience. The headlines also worked well with the page design and the photos.

Radio/Audio - Current Affairs, Feature Documentary or Special

Sponsored by Queensland Police Union

Winner:

- David Murray, Sean Callinan: *The Courier-Mail Online*: Searching for Rachel Antonio

Highly Commended:

- David Lewis, Wendy Carlisle, Linda McGinness: *ABC Radio's Background Briefing, ABC Radio's RN*: Bullied to death: The short life of Tyrone Unsworth

Finalists:

- Katherine Gregory: *ABC Radio's AM*: Dreamworld - the tragedy to the aftermath
- David Lewis: *ABC Radio's Background Briefing, ABC Radio's RN*: Early inheritance syndrome: financial elder abuse by children and carers



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Judges' comment:

David Murray and Sean Callinan's compelling podcast about the disappearance of teenager Rachel Antonio 18 years ago proves that time spent on quality journalism is never wasted. A combination of thorough research, contacts and strong relationships with people central to the case discovered new information that prompted another search for Rachel's body. Four months in the making, this five-part podcast made great use of a variety of interviews, music and sound to immerse the listener in this unsolved crime in a small North Queensland town. It is an innovative piece of work from a newspaper. It's of no surprise that work of this quality delivered a number one ranking podcast.

Radio/ Audio - News Report

Winner:

- Mark Jeffery: *ABC Radio North & Far North Queensland: Farmers Attack Defence*

Highly Commended:

- Stephen Stockwell: *Hack on triple j: Dreamworld accident coverage*

Finalist:

- Casey Briggs: *ABC Radio Queensland: Tempers flare in north Queensland over crocodile culls*

Judges' comment:

In this entry, Mark Jeffery presented a compelling picture of the impact of compulsory land acquisition by Defence. The reports combined interviews with specialists, important context and strong comments from those potentially affected by the decision. In selecting the winner, the judges recognised the newsworthiness of the topic, the reporter's efforts to simplify a complicated issue without compromising accuracy and the reporter's ability to secure interviews with key players.

Regional & Community – Print/ Text: News Report

Winner:

- Paul Weston: *Gold Coast Bulletin: Thin Grim Line*

Finalists:

- Marty McCarthy: *ABC News Online: Queensland sugar stoush threatens Federal Government stability*
- Victoria Nugent: *Townsville Bulletin: James Cook University rape case*
- Isobel Roe: *ABC News Online: Government owned business pursued over dodgy contractor*

Commended:

- Bernie Dowling: *Quest Community News Online: CCC hearing into the 2106 Moreton Bay Regional Council election*

Judges' comment:



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Paul Weston's reporting of the issue of crime statistics being manipulated on the Gold Coast highlighted a number of issues in the wake of a damning auditor-general's report into the matter. In particular, his revelation that three officers who blew the whistle had been reassigned flew in the face of Commissioner Ian Stewart's praise for their actions and highlighted divisions in the upper ranks of the State's police force. The Bulletin's coverage drove the media cycle on the story and led to the CCC deciding to look into the issue further. There were a lot of entries in this category which were of a very high standard, which speaks to the quality of journalism currently being performed in regional parts of the state. All the nominees deserve praise; however, the judges also wanted to give special mention to Bernie Dowling and Lachlan Thompson for their investigation into donations in the lead up to the 2016 Moreton Bay Regional Council Election, which became the subject of a CCC investigation.

Regional & Community - Broadcast Report

Winner:

- Ben Millington: *ABC TV's Landline and AM Current Affairs Radio: Inside Cleveland Youth Detention*

Highly Commended:

- Courtney Wilson: *ABC TV's Landline: The Raw Prawn*

Finalist:

- Lydia Burton, Courtney Wilson: *ABC TV's Landline: Women of the West*

Judges' comment:

*Entry standards in this year's Broadcast Report – Regional and Community category were extremely high, with entrants displaying outstanding journalistic skills, some in challenging circumstances, to bring their stories to life. Ben Millington's entry, 'Inside Cleveland Youth Detention', was well researched, informative and compelling. Despite a lack of vision of alleged assaults on the victim, with clever recreation, Ben managed to convey a sense of the suffering and humiliation that Russell had endured. Ben clearly built enormous trust with Russell to tell his very personal story, while displaying incredible tenacity to corroborate the allegations, speaking to some 11 sources for confirmation. The fact that Ben's reporting forced the Government to take action to improve the lives of inmates at the Centre is testament to it being an outstanding example of broadcast journalism in 2017. The judges would also like to highly commend ABC Landline's Courtney Wilson, who displayed exceptional journalistic skills in her report, *The Raw Prawn*, which so effectively explained the White Spot Disease outbreak and its devastating impact on the local industry.*

Regional & Community - Print /Text: Feature Article or Opinion:

Winner:

- Alexandria Utting, Paul Weston, Wayne Watson: *Gold Coast Bulletin: Control Freak: The Tara Brown Murder*

Highly Commended:

- Sherele Moody: *The Daily Telegraph's Rendezview, Various: Agent of Change*

Finalists:

- Kat Donaghey: *Backstory News Magazine: Breaking the Silence*



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- Sherele Moody: *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*: The Death Talkers

Judges' comment:

The judges found this category challenging to judge. Feature articles and opinion pieces are difficult to compare along similar lines. The standard was also high overall, but the winning entry stood-out as an excellent example of news feature-writing. 'Control Freak: The Tara Brown Murder' was well researched, thorough, captivating and intelligently laid-out. It showed effective cultivation of legal, police and underworld sources. The judges wish to congratulate the group on their hard-work, dedication and ability to tell an important in an engaging, timely and incisive manner. The judges also wanted to highly commend Sherele Moody on her body of work. Sherele's work - particularly the revealing piece about her childhood abuse - is courageous, heart-wrenching and raw reportage. Her columns are intensely personal and compellingly written.

Regional & Community - News Photograph

Sponsored by Serafino Wines

Winner:

- Justin Brierty: *The Cairns Post*: Don't Shoot

Finalists:

- Glenn Hampson: *Gold Coast Bulletin*: Exodus
- Evan Morgan: *Townsville Bulletin*: Keith and Debbie

Commended:

- Alistair Brightman: *Hervey Bay Observer*: Unbelieva-bubble

Judges' comment:

The judges felt this is an exceptional photograph that captures an insightful moment rarely seen by the public. Justin Brierty showed clever judgement to stay calm and composed before seizing his opportunity to 'shoot' and capture the drama and adrenaline at its peak. A fine example of news photography at its best.

Television - Current Affairs, Feature Documentary

Sponsored by Queensland Police Union

Winner:

- Paula Doneman, Michael Usher, Duncan McNab, Stephen Peters, Mark Llewellyn: *Channel Seven*: Murder Uncovered - Who killed Leanne Holland?

Finalists:



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- Michael Atkin: *ABC TV's 7.30 Program: Rough justice: The treatment of young indigenous offenders in North QLD*
- Ben Millington: *ABC TV'S Lateline: Abuse Inside Cleveland*
- Mark Willacy, Alexandra Blucher: *ABC TV's Four Corners: Breaking the Brotherhood*

Judges' comment:

Years of investigative work by journalist Paula Doneman culminates in an hour of engrossing, compelling television that cut straight to the heart of one of Australia's most-contested murders, that of Goodna schoolgirl Leanne Holland. Expertly fronted by Michael Usher, 'Murder Uncovered' took new evidence to the man at the centre of investigations, Graham Stafford, confronting him with a confidential police review never made public before the show aired. Meticulously pieced together, with old footage meshing with new, this was a deserving winner in a category of the highest quality. Most importantly, it gave a voice for a 12-year-old girl that has now had her story told in full for the first time in 26 years.

Television - The John Bean Award for News and Current Affairs Camerawork

Sponsored by ABC

Winner:

- Scott Kyle: *ABC TV's 7.30 Program: Quinkan Country*

Highly Commended:

- Kirsty Nancarrow: *ABC TV's 7pm News, ABC TV's News 24: Nepal Earthquake Recovery*

Finalist:

- Jeff Licence: *ABC TV's News 24, ABC Open: For the love of strings and wood*

Commended:

- Nine News camera operators and editors: *Nine Network: Cyclone Debbie*

Judges' comment:

Scott Kyle's entry demonstrates talent and determination to tell an important story in a compelling manner. The crew travelled great distance by air, land and foot to access the remote aboriginal art drawings. Care was taken with lighting and composition. The story was crafted under difficult circumstances and met the expectations of this cinematic award. Kirsty Nancarrow demonstrated initiative, creativity and a willingness to embrace and master another skill.



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Television News Report

Sponsored by QUT Creative Industries

Winner:

- Nine News Team: *Nine Network*: Cyclone Debbie

Finalists:

- Michael Best: *Nine Network's Today Show*: London Bridge Attack
- Seven News Team: *Seven News*: Policeman Shooting

Judges' comment:

Absolutely outstanding. This is new benchmark for modern television reporting in a disaster situation. The compelling coverage, put together by a battalion of journalists armed with mobile phones loaded with Dejero apps, took us to the heart of a disaster which shook Queensland to its core. Nine's investment in broadcast technology shone though in this unfolding disaster. Gone were the satellite trucks; they were replaced with mobile phones successfully able to operate in the cyclonic conditions. The Nine team was able to move into areas of the disaster unreachable by others. Also noteworthy was the incorporation in real-time of hundreds of Snapchat and Facebook clips by citizen journalists into the broadcast. The immediacy and depth achieved was unmatched by the other networks.

Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism

Sponsored by The University of Queensland

Winner:

- John Henningham

Judges' comment:

It is difficult to over-emphasise the impact that John Henningham has had on Australian journalism. There are many journalism schools at Australian universities doing a fine job but there is only one JSchool, and its contribution has been immense. John broke ground by gaining the first Australian doctorate in journalism and becoming the country's first journalism professor, then continued his pioneering work with JSchool, which for decades has imparted the professional skills that young journalists need, coupled with rigorous academic teaching. JSchool focuses on the real world to help students learn real, practical, journalism skills that are of immediate use to the students and the newsrooms that hired them. John changed Australian journalism for the better by setting a high standard that other teachers now aspire to, as evidenced in part by JSchool's regular representation in the Clarions' Most Outstanding Student category, with graduates winning in 2005 and 2010.



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2017 Queensland Journalist of the Year

Sponsored by Griffith University

Winner:

- David Murray

Judges' comment:

Doggedness, stick-to-it-ness, persistence . . . call it what you will; Courier-Mail journalist David Murray certainly has it. After being approached by the parents of missing schoolgirl Rachel Antonio, David conceived the idea of a podcast that could uncover seemingly neglected aspects of the investigation into her disappearance. It took him four months of research, planning and travel as he traced and recorded witnesses, sourced material and scripted five episodes of 35-40 minutes each, with the assistance of digital editor Sean Callinan. The material used included thousands of pages of previously-unseen documents, photographs and police audio and video recordings, including Rachel's diary. The podcasts revealed startling new information and as a result police last month began searching the Bowen tip in a new hunt for Rachel. David's work has opened the door to the possible solving of the mystery of her disappearance and giving her grieving parents some resolution.