

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Best Text-Based Story by an Undergraduate Student

less than 750 words

(Individual, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Tess Ikonomou, Monash University

'Monash University academic denied permanent residency because of autistic son'

Published in The Age on July 30, 2016

<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/monash-university-academic-denied-permanent-residency-because-of-autistic-son-20160730-gqhb16.html>

JUDGES COMMENT: This is journalism that has helped change the lives of a family for the better, and has shone a light on another aspect of Australia's immigration system.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Jesse Robinson, La Trobe University

'Calls for financial support for nursing students'

<http://www.upstart.net.au/calls-for-financial-support-for-nursing-students/>

JUDGES COMMENT: This is a story that clearly strikes a nerve with thousands of nursing and midwifery students, but most likely significantly more in many other industries too. An important issue for all students brought to a broader audience.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Best text-based story by a Postgraduate Student over 750 words

(Individual, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Oliver Jacques, UTS

'Ex-AFL player Brad Murphy reveals his childhood struggle in foster care'

Published in The Herald Sun on August 5, 2016

Subscriber only (<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/exafl-player-brad-murphy-reveals-his-childhood-struggles-in-foster-care/news-story/4d69de443839dad4969c78321196e24e>)

JUDGES COMMENT: Jacques used a great case study - AFL star Brad Murphy - to draw his readers into a well-researched piece about an important but underexposed topic. Simply but effectively written, Jacques' article is accessible, engaging and smartly-structured. It's not hard to see why the Herald Sun selected it for publication.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Tess Green, University of Sydney

'A Curry to Die For'

JUDGES COMMENT: A beautifully-written and powerful piece on voluntary euthanasia."

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Angus Smith, Monash University

'To catch a thief'

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2016/08/31/who-stole-picassos-weeping-woman-2/>

JUDGES COMMENT: An entertaining two-part investigative piece on the 1980s theft of Picasso's *Weeping Woman* in Melbourne.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Best Audio Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student 2 minutes or less

(Individual, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Sam King, UTS

'Think Health'

Broadcast on 2SER August 7, 2016.

<http://www.2ser.com/on-air/item/24210-think-health-sunday-07-july>

JUDGES COMMENT: Sam's piece on what it's like living with tuberculosis and the misconceptions and stigma attached to it is compelling, well presented and very engaging. There's a great use of talent from the very personal perspective of the main voice in the story as well as some good insight from an expert in the field who has also had some interesting experiences working with infected people. Sam shows strong interviewing skills and an authoritative yet relaxed and relatable presenting style. His piece presents an interesting topic in a meaningful way and helps break down misconceptions about a prominent disease. The piece could be just as impactful in a shorter format, but there's a good use of grabs to tell the story and it makes for interesting listening. Sam shows strong potential and a natural aptitude for the great medium of radio story-telling.

Best Audio Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student over 2 minutes

(Individual, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Buffy Gorrilla, University of Melbourne

'Aquafaba': the egg substitute vegans have been waiting for'

A version of this story played on Radio National, August 20, 2016

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/blueprintforliving/aquafaba/7713054>

JUDGES COMMENT: Buffy Gorrilla's entry stood out from the rest – particularly with her use of natural sound, story-telling and talent.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Sabrina Woodward, RMIT University

'Calls to adopt Nordic Model on Prostitution'

SBS Radio June 6, 2016

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/06/06/calls-australia-adopt-nordic-model-prostitution>

JUDGES COMMENT: Sabrina's piece on law reform proposals for the sex industry is a balanced and insightful feature story on a divisive issue. It is delivered well and provides a good mix of voices, albeit without a sex worker. The story includes interesting perspectives on the complexities around regulating prostitution and the importance of protecting victims of sex trafficking. It's an interesting, well-told radio feature and Sabrina has demonstrated very good presentation and story-writing skills.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Liam Clark, University of Melbourne

'The Asia-Pacific dreams up its own Eurovision'

<http://www.thecitizen.org.au/news/asia-pacific-dreams-its-own-eurovision-0>

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Best Video Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

2 minutes or less

(Individual, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Nicolas Rivet, Swinburne University

'Travel bug still biting young people'

<http://www.theswinstandard.net/2016/04/20/travel-bug-still-biting-young-people/>

JUDGES COMMENT: His story was in a format which zipped along and is very much the future of video journalism. Great use of prerecorded video, excellent camera work and deft editing. The homemade graphic was excellent. Only two minor points, the story could have been improved by the use of some music and one final voice over line summing up the main point – that travel is increasing at the expense of home ownership. This story was the clear winner.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Declan Bowring, UTS

'Chip Implants: The New Credit Cards'

<https://impetusaus.com/2016/06/04/chip-implants-the-new-credit-cards/>

JUDGES COMMENT: Fascinating subject matter and well-structured story.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Chrisrita Aumanu, University of The South Pacific

'Taxi Harrassment'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ9miowFE0w>

JUDGES COMMENT: Very good work for a student making her first video on an important subject.

Best Video Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

over 2 minutes

(Individual, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Sally Hayles, Monash University

'Fishing for the future'

<http://mojocorrespondent.com/fishing-for-a-future-video-report-on-the-health-of-cambodias-mekong-river/>

JUDGES COMMENT: A well-constructed story examining the over fishing of the Mekong River and the impacts on traditional village life. The story was well filmed and edited. The script had a logical flow that drew the audience into the detail. By letting the camera lead the story and the words (often via translation) follow, Sally created a fine piece of video reporting.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Rashina Kumar, University of the South Pacific

'Youth suicide in Fiji'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GO1le5iVT6o>

JUDGES COMMENT: From its dramatic, treated opening sequence this story sought to examine the distressing case of three teenage boys who took their own lives. It broadened into an examination of youth suicide through the voices of many people and angles. A difficult topic well told in video form.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Best Video Story by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student over 2 minutes

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Simon Abana, University of the South Pacific
'Homelessness in Suva'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o34rNXLIQhc>

JUDGES COMMENT: This video was a fine piece of reportage examining homelessness in Suva. At times the footage and writing was inspired as it took the viewer onto the streets and among those trying to find solutions.

Best Innovation in Journalism (Individual or Group, Undergraduate or Postgraduate)

WINNER: La Trobe's Upstart

<https://upstart.atavist.com/depression-in-the-afl-the-toughest-opponent>

JUDGES COMMENT: La Trobe featured a collection of stories from students compiled using the Atavist platform. The stories were simple, traditional journalism made more vivid through the seamless integration of video, images, social media and sound. I say seamless because the technology was in no way distracting, but only helped tell the story. I was very impressed with all the entries, but particularly with the story by depression in the AFL (AFL: The Toughest Opponent), which used a very wide variety of different types of media to tell the story while also maintaining many of the best traditions of journalism, including beautifully shot, honest interviews on a very difficult topic.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: House: Divided, Bond University

<http://www.unipollwatch.org.au/house-divided.html>

JUDGES COMMENT: There were many worthy projects that came out of the UniPollWatch project, but I felt that *House: Divided* was very simple and easy to understand, but also very insightful. The grading system was intuitive. I was also impressed by the data-mining required to put together in this entry.

Journalism today is often so much about making sense of vast amounts of data, and the students at Bond have used computing power to uncover new insights.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Outlands, RMIT University

<http://theoutlandsproject.weebly.com/>

JUDGES COMMENT: Sometimes all it takes is sound to transport the reader somewhere else. The prose, poetry and images in the Outlands project also did their part. Too often multimedia projects can seem overwhelming. But the medium didn't overwhelm the message here. This was such quiet, calming journalism. And no less valuable for it.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Dr Charles Stuart Prize for Best Student Publication

(Individual or Group, Undergraduate or Postgraduate)

WINNER: The Citizen, University of Melbourne

www.thecitizen.org.au

JUDGES COMMENT: *The Citizen* is a first rate example of a news site of professional quality that showcases the outstanding work of students. It has an exciting feel to it and is easy to navigate with high-level content.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Modern Expiration, UTS

<https://modernexpiration.com>

JUDGES COMMENT: *Modern Expiration* is original in content and achieves its aim of increasing awareness of the often taboo issue of death. *Modern Expiration* is an example of how the media could evolve – niche publications addressing a single issue sitting within broader news or feature sites.

Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma - Asia Pacific Prize

(Individual, Undergraduate or Postgraduate, Any Medium, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Hannah Gee, Western Sydney University

'The grim reality of keeping the doors locked from the outside'

JUDGES COMMENT: Hannah Gee crafted a poignant story about the universal issues of child neglect/abandonment and post-natal depression. This well written piece however raised these issues in a very new and engaging way by focusing on one woman's story in Tanzania. Gee's well-written article was both informative and moving without being sentimental.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Tessa Fox, Griffith University

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Oliver Jacques, UTS

Best Photojournalism by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

(Individual, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Emily Smith, UTS

'Fighting Fit'

<http://emilyjanesmith.com/fightingfit>.

JUDGES COMMENT: It's a great set of images covering the highs and lows of Muay Thai fighting in Thailand where using only available light she has managed to capture the mood and drama of these events.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Hanalei Temese, AUT for 'a very moving piece'.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Sally A. White Prize for Investigative Journalism by an Undergraduate or Postgraduate Student

(Individual, Any Medium, \$200 prize)

WINNER: **Aparna Balakumar, University of Sydney**
***'Wesley college 'rackweb' slut-shames female students, calls them 'bitches'
and 'hoes'***

Published May 10, 2016

<http://www.usu.edu.au/News/EXCLUSIVE-Wesley-College-Rackweb-slut-shames-fem.aspx>

JUDGES COMMENT: Balakumar takes the prize for her expose of the sexist Rackweb document compiled by male students against female students at Sydney University's Wesley College. The quality of the journalism in this story is of a very high standard with appropriate opportunities to respond exhibiting impartiality in the public interest. What elevates this story is the challenging environment in which it was pursued. Sydney University is one of the very well-endowed Sandstone institutions with long histories, prestige and wealth to defend. Aparna endured considerable opposition including from within the student body, if comments on her original story are an indication. But a particular element of the story which demonstrates uniquely in this field a key journalistic skill is the fact that Aparna chose to drop another story she was working on to pursue the early hints she uncovered about the Rackweb. Knowing when to drop a story is at least as important a skill as knowing when to follow one. This sifting process is also vital to the investigative challenge.

The extensive follow up to this story, including by the Sydney Morning Herald and other outlets like the ABC's major news and current affairs programs, reaffirms the excellent work here.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: **Angus Smith, Monash University**

JUDGES COMMENT: Told a rollicking yarn about the Picasso theft. He clearly did a comprehensive, investigative job of tracking down the key players in possession of any hint of an explanation in this still unsolved case. He appears to harbour a secret that many would like to share.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: **Maria Abbatangelo, University of Melbourne**

JUDGES COMMENT: Pursuit of the authorities after the death of a young man who slipped between a railway station platform and a train, revealing a potentially lethal trap at many stations was excellent work. This is a story with great public interest, both from the safety perspective and in what it highlighted about public officials' actions in such situations. It also exhibited solid journalistic values put into practice including opportunities to respond, exhibiting impartiality in the public interest.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Best Investigative Journalism

(Group, Any Medium, Undergraduate or Postgraduate)

WINNER: Mikaela Day and Alice Pohlner, Monash University

'Domestic Violence in Cambodia – Part One: The Rural Challenge'

<http://mojocorrespondent.com/domestic-violence-in-cambodia-part-one-the-rural-challenge/>

JUDGES COMMENT: This series on domestic violence in Cambodia was a deeply impressive display of investigative reporting. Day and Pohlner pushed past the easy explanations to ask hard questions of a difficult problem, and to set it in social, political and legal context. Their reporting was all the admirable for the challenges they overcame as student journalists gathering news in a foreign country.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Aparna Balakumar, University of Sydney.

JUDGES COMMENT: This story on sexually abusive behaviour at Sydney University's Wesley College, and the College's Pulp publication, is highly commended. Balakumar's report revealed disturbing details of Wesley College life, revealed a worrying lassitude in the college's response to the Pulp publication, and triggered an official investigation by the university.

Mindframe for Journalism Education Prize for Mental Health Reporting

(Individual, Any Medium, Undergraduate, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Lindsey Green, Monash University

'Harrowing tales of reporting on trauma' (radio piece)

<http://mojonews.com.au/generation-j-presents-harrowing-tales-of-reporting-on-trauma/>

JUDGES COMMENT: Probing and confronting podcast discussing personal reflections of reporting on traumatic situations and impact on journalists' mental health. Lindsey demonstrates a genuineness and empathic approach when challenging community perceptions of journalists being 'hard-nosed' by interviewing seasoned journalists who have been confronted with traumatic situations to report on, such as the Port Arthur massacre, domestic violence and suicide. Concepts of impartiality and degrees of awareness of protecting one's own mental health are presented, in context of risk of vicarious trauma are revealed as the discussion focuses in on the 'emotive human' response vs the 'objective professional'. Ethical and authentic reporting emerge as the foundational messages in the diversity of the discussion and it would be well placed to be used as a core resource for journalism education.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Ninah Kopel, UTS

'What's it like to hear voices?' (2SER mp3 audio)

JUDGES COMMENT: Innovative radio piece which challenges stereotypes and stigma associated with hearing voices. Ninah took a very creative approach to broaching a sensitive mental health issue and through inclusion of interviews with people with lived experience, brings validation and hope for others who may identify and for those who care for and support them.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

Mindframe for Journalism Education Prize for Mental Health Reporting

(Individual, Any Medium, Postgraduate, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Shelby Garlick, Swinburne University

'Trouble in the country' (print media piece, investigative journalism work)

<http://www.theswinstandard.net/?s=shelby+garlick>

JUDGES COMMENT: Shelby's article sensitively explores the complexities of living in rural and remote areas and hits home with some confronting truths about the challenges of isolation, suicide and depression. The piece is well balanced and researched and has included professional perspectives, disclosure of personal vulnerabilities and innovative strategies to address the issues. The piece highlights the power of community in bringing hope and healing and encourages use of simple conversations amongst neighbours to be part of the solution and recovery process from the stresses of country life.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Loren Smith, UTS

"Black dog" also stalks new dads' (print/online piece)

<http://www.earlylearningreview.com.au/black-dog-also-stalks-new-dads/>

JUDGES COMMENT: Loren's piece was well written, succinct and informative about the prevalence of post-natal depression in new fathers. The inclusion of expert opinion and robust research validates the need for effective solutions and hope. Loren presents an innovative online program being offered called SMS4dads which is proving to be effective due to easy access, engaging content, and self-care tips, with the result of improving mental health and building quality relationships with their new babies.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

John Newfong Prize for Reporting on Indigenous Affairs (Individual, Undergraduate or Postgraduate, Any Medium, \$200 prize)

WINNER: Jack Latimore, University of Melbourne

'Damage done to stolen generations at risk of being repeated'

<http://www.thecitizen.org.au/analysis/damage-done-stolen-generations-risk-being-repeated>

JUDGES COMMENT: A strong story that has impact. There is a maturity about the storytelling and it hits the mark in terms of what Indigenous affairs reporting should be doing, which is ensuring that authorities and the governments are kept to account over the shocking social equity gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The journalist clearly explains that governments have known about these issues and were given solutions to those problems 25 years ago through the commission's recommendations.

By highlighting the death of Ms Dhu he neatly and emotionally illustrates the tragic reality is that black people continue to die in custody and little has changed since the commission.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Laura Thomas, Curtin University

'Jasmine sends sparks flying'

<https://inkwirenews.com.au/2016/06/20/jasmine-sends-sparks-flying/>

JUDGES COMMENT: This is a great profile on an inspirational woman. I feel this story could benefit from being tightened up and while some of the people interviewed are excessive to the guts of the story it is a great piece to read.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Georgia Clark, UTS

'AFL radio piece'

JUDGES COMMENT: This is a great piece of radio current affairs. Sounds professionally produced, very informative and emotive at the same time.

The issue of racism in the AFL has been covered extensively and I have seen many of them, yet I felt like I was discovering new. Great work.

2016 Ossie Award Winners

The Australian Press Council Undergraduate Prize for an essay on the topic of press freedom or media ethics (\$200)

WINNER: Jeremy Stevens, University of Canberra

JUDGES COMMENT: An examination of the use of online material, the responsibilities and dangers for journalists that I disagreed with at times, but found well worth reading.
Raises a valuable point: just because material IS online, SHOULD we use it. It's a daily issue.

The Australian Press Council Postgraduate Prize for an essay on the topic of press freedom or media ethics (\$200)

WINNER: Cameron Scott, Monash University

JUDGES COMMENT: Well researched, thought-provoking, pertinent.
Good analysis of the Charlie Hebdo/Danish cartoons free-speech vs provocation arguments.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Koren Harvey, Monash

JUDGES COMMENT: Really got a lot out of the history of free speech and the continuum between Munich and the Lindt siege.

The Australian Press Council Prize for Journalism Student of the Year (\$750)

WINNER: Anna James, Griffith University

JUDGES COMMENT: The Press Council judges considered Anna's overall performance to be outstanding – including the body of high-quality journalistic work she has generated, her very strong academic performance, her efforts to develop the student newspaper at Griffith, as well as her demonstrated commitment to social justice through journalism. We congratulate her for these achievements. The award is well-deserved in a large and highly competitive field.

There were, of course, a number of other very strong candidates for this award this year, so it was not easy to choose only one for commendation.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Rohan Domville-Lewis, Curtin University

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Natalie Clancy, UTS