



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
MEDIA PEACE AWARDS 2010

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7pm, 22 October, 2010

**HIGH PRAISE FOR MEDIA FOCUS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

“Outstanding research and journalistic skills were shown by the winners of the 2010 United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards, announced in Melbourne tonight”, said the Chairman of the Judging Panel, Mr Murray McLinnis.

“The winners in all categories demonstrated a commitment to reporting on significant human rights issues in Australia and throughout the world”.

Complete list of winners attached.

This year’s winners demonstrate a marvellous depth of journalism, proving yet again that when it comes to profound human issues, Australian journalists in all mediums are making a significant contribution to our understanding of critical social justice and humanitarian issues, both at home and abroad.

Highlights from the international coverage of this year’s winners include:

- an excellent report on Australians working in southern Afghanistan;
- a radio broadcast exploring the significant social issues arising from the so-called war on drugs in Mexico;
- outstanding coverage of the immense human tragedy of the floods in Pakistan.

Closer to home, winners produced compassionate and informative work on the impact of Australian policy on the plight of two Kenyan women seeking asylum, alcoholism and violence in Sydney and the social dislocation and isolation of men in Melbourne. Winning entries include insightful stories on disadvantaged communities as well as literacy and the preservation of traditional languages among Indigenous communities in remote areas.

The winner of two award categories, *Best Television Documentary and Women's Rights and Issues*, addressed the issue of domestic violence through one woman's story and her search for justice, but it is also an exploration of how a family and community come to terms with violence.

The winner of the *Older Person Award* category provided a positive and uplifting story on people described as 'third agers' who celebrate life and justice with a determination to enjoy 'hard won wisdom'.

In the *Children's Rights and Issues Award* category, the winner highlighted human rights issues arising from the adoption industry in Ethiopia and the practice of 'harvesting'.

The *Multicultural Award* category winner was the result of a superbly revealing study of the complex issues confronting tens of thousands of Indian students in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs.

Winners, announced at the Awards Presentation Dinner at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne, hosted by Virginia Trioli of *ABC News Breakfast*, include journalists from *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, the *Adelaide Review*, ABC, ABC Radio National Blackfella Films and SBS. A special commendation went to Artemis International & Inavision Films.

The national Media Peace Awards were established in 1978 to promote understanding and awareness in our society by recognising media efforts to stimulate public debate about humanitarian and social justice issues and promote peace through conflict resolution, tolerance and understanding.

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WINNERS – Major Award Categories

BEST PRINT

News

- Yuko Narushima, *Sydney Morning Herald & The Age* - "Rejected Women Face Mutilation"

Feature

- Jo Chandler, *The Age* - "Heart of the Battle"

BEST TELEVISION (Sponsored by SBS)

News

- Sally Sara, Wayne McAllister & Jawed Memon, *ABC* - "Pakistan Floods Coverage"

Current Affairs

- Fouad Hady & Ashley Smith, *SBS TV Dateline* - "Iraq's Deadly Legacy"

Documentary

- Darren Dale & Genevieve Grieves, *Blackfella Films in association with SBS Television* - "Lani's Story"

BEST RADIO

- Colm McNaughton, Nick Franklin & Steve Tilley, *ABC Radio National 360 Documentaries* - "La Frontera"

BEST PHOTOJOURNALISM

- Andy Drewitt, *Leader Community Newspapers* - "Man Unknown"

BEST ONLINE

- Eleanor Bell, Ed Giles, Tim Leslie, Fred Shaw, Tim Madden, Georgie Ibarra, Meena Tharmarajah, Gary Kemble, Charlie Zzasz, Astrid Scott, Suzanne Smith & Matthew Liddy, *ABC News Online with ABC Innovation* - "Beating the Odds"

WINNERS – Special Award Categories

PROMOTION OF ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION

(Sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)

- The SMH Team led by Peter Fray with Aden Ridgeway & Gary Williams, *Sydney Morning Herald* - "First Words"

PROMOTION OF POSITIVE IMAGES OF THE OLDER PERSON

(Sponsored by the Office of Senior Victorians)

- Shirley Stott Despoja, *The Adelaide Review* - "Third Age"

INCREASING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ISSUES

(Sponsored by the Office of Women's Policy)

- Darren Dale & Genevieve Grieves, *Blackfella Films in association with SBS TV* - "Lani's Story"

INCREASING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND ISSUES

(Sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)

- Andrew Geoghegan, Mary Ann Jolley, Brett Ramsay, Stratis Zervos, Nick Brenner & Samson McKonnen, *ABC Foreign Correspondent* - "Ethiopia - 'Fly Away Children'"
- **Special Commendation:** Artemis International & Inavision Films - "Bridge Between Two Worlds"

PROMOTION OF MULTICULTURAL ISSUES

(Sponsored by the Victorian Multicultural Commission and Australian Multicultural Foundation)

- Martin Daly, Michael Bachelard, Meredith O'Shea, Nathaniel Scott, *The Age* - "A Passage from India"