



**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2020/21**

WHO WE ARE

The Melbourne Press Club has been a key part of the Australian media community for half a century. Our mission is to celebrate excellence in journalism, promote the value of quality journalism in a modern democracy, provide forums for discussion of issues in the news and encourage fellowship among media people.

Established in 1971, the Club is a forum where journalists, communications industry people and professionals in related fields can hear from the country's most senior politicians, business leaders and other newsmakers, and liaise on issues such as professional development and media freedom. Speakers at the Club's monthly lunches have included Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, journalists, prime ministers, premiers, authors, sports heroes and top business executives.

Each year the Club hosts Victoria's most prestigious media awards, the Quills, and presents the annual Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year and Harry Gordon Australian Sports Journalist of the Year awards. It also bestows an annual Lifetime Achievement Award. In addition, the Club has built the Australian Media Hall of Fame to honour the country's greatest reporters, editors, broadcasters, commentators, photographers and cartoonists.

In recent years our range of activities has further expanded to include the Michael Gordon Journalism Fellowship program, which supports social justice journalism projects around the country. We also run a number of initiatives for student and early-career journalists, including The Edit forum series and an industry mentoring program.

GOVERNANCE

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CONNECT WITH US

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You can find the Melbourne Press Club on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn and Instagram.

HOW TO JOIN

Membership of the Melbourne Press Club is open to everyone with an interest in the media.

Annual membership is \$85 for journalist members, \$110 for associate members and \$40 for students.

Apply online at www.melbournepressclub.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The Melbourne Press Club has adapted and changed in the last 12 months, and in doing so remained relevant and viable for our members, sponsors and supporters. During COVID-19 our live luncheon events were transformed into a series of Zoom webinars, drawing on speakers and panellists from around Australia and the world. We also developed an online series of 'Book club' events showcasing the work of journalists who have become authors.

In terms of early-career offerings, in the last year we received the highest ever number of applicants for our mentoring program, while another successful season of The Edit saw most events that were presented in the past year sold out. We have also developed a series of 'Masterclass' events for mid-career journalists and commenced 2021 with a sold-out session on investigative journalism. The Gordon Fellowship program attracted a strong field of applicants and saw seven fellowships awarded from among 24 proposed projects.



Despite the challenges facing the industry, including closures and restructuring, the Club has grown its membership to the highest-ever level over the past 12 months. We also established a diversity sub-committee, which has worked hard to assist with long-term sustainable change, instigating the creation of an Indigenous reporting Quill Award as well as diversity and inclusiveness training for the board. During the year we farewelled board members Mark Baker and Heather Loomes and welcomed Nicole Strahan.



Our gala Quill Awards dinner held on 26 March 2021 was a welcome coming together of the industry after a tough year for all. The night saw ABC journalist Russell Jackson awarded the Gold Quill for his Sports Feature about the racism suffered by former AFL footballer Robert Muir. The choice was a popular one and Jackson received a standing ovation after giving a moving speech about Muir.



The Press Club has welcomed the University of Melbourne as our principal sponsor. We also welcomed Lion, McGrath Nicol and Mediality on board as sponsors and thank all our long-term media partners, sponsors and donors for their continuing support.

Cathy Bryson, Chief Executive Officer

From top: MPC CEO Cathy Bryson with Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker at the Investigative Journalism Masterclass; Laura Tingle at a book club event; PricewaterhouseCoopers Indigenous Consulting founding partner Jodie Sizer presents the inaugural Quill for Indigenous reporting to Australian Story's Belinda Hawkins; Father Bob Maguire with the winner of the Cobberwealth Award for Social Inclusion, Charmayne Allison.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: AWARDS



THE QUILL AWARDS

The Quill Awards for Excellence in Victorian Journalism are the premier media awards in Victoria and the biggest night of the year for Melbourne media. For many who attended the gala dinner on 26 March 2021, it was their first industry night out since COVID-19 stopped normal life in its tracks 12 months earlier. The impact of the pandemic was reflected in winning entries across categories at the Quills. Another issue that resounded was systemic racism, with the judges awarding the 2020 Gold Quill to Russell Jackson of ABC News for his reporting on the devastating discrimination and abuse suffered by 1970s AFL player Robert Muir. The judges said Jackson's piece contributed significantly to a wider community conversation. Meanwhile, the inaugural Quill for Recognising Excellence in Reporting on Indigenous Issues was won by Australian Story for a program on the trials of Richmond footballer Marlion Pickett. The one-off Father Bob Maguire Foundation Cobberwealth Award for Social Inclusion was won by Shepparton News journalist Charmayne Allison for her reporting on homelessness in regional Victoria.



THE GRAHAM PERKIN AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

The Age investigative journalist Nick McKenzie was announced the 45th Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year. The judges praised the scope and ambition of McKenzie's work and a commitment to pursuing the story "beyond the scoop". In particular they described his reporting on war crimes, Crown casino and corruption in the Victorian branch of the ALP as "critical to our democracy". It was McKenzie's second Perkin win, having previously shared the award in 2017 with friend and colleague Richard Baker.



THE HARRY GORDON AUSTRALIAN SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

The Harry Gordon Australian Sports Journalist of the Year Award was won by Julian Linden of The Daily Telegraph for a portfolio of "bold and genuinely investigative" work which the judges said showed "grit as well as grace". Now in its seventh year, the award recognises excellence in sports journalism across all codes and all regions of the country. It is named in memory of Harry Gordon, one of the greatest war correspondents, sports writers and newspaper editors of his generation.



THE MPC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Veteran editor Colin Duck was awarded the Melbourne Press Club Lifetime Achievement Award for a career in journalism, editing and publishing spanning more than five decades. As editor of Melbourne's Sun News-Pictorial in the late 1980s Duck reversed a decade-long circulation decline and broke many major stories.

From top: Robbie Muir and Russell Jackson hold the Gold Quill and Quill for Sports Feature; Perkin winner Nick McKenzie; Gordon Award winner Julian Linden; Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Colin Duck with his nephew Justin Quill.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: KEY INITIATIVES



OUR WORK WITH EARLY CAREER JOURNALISTS

Despite the challenges, The Edit forum for student and early-career journalists had another successful season, with most events, which were presented online in 2020, fully subscribed. Highlights included a session on reporting US politics and the presidential election, panels on the role of multicultural media in the pandemic, landing a job in journalism and cultivating sources, and a conversation with special guest Lisa Miller. The Mentoring program, now in its fifth year, received a record number of applicants.

The Club's initiatives for early-career journalists are generously supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

BOOK CLUB

In 2020 the Melbourne Press Club worked with My Bookshop owner Corrie Perkin to support a series of popular 'Book club' webinar events with authors. These included discussion sessions with "outback noir" writer Jane Harper, comedian John Cleese and journalists Laura Tingle, Leigh Sales and Michael Rowland, who each spoke frankly about their recently published works.

MASTERCLASS

In 2020 the Club embarked on a new initiative aimed at mid-career journalists – a series of practically-focused Masterclass events. The first of these was a session on interpreting budgets with Herald Sun journalist Grant McArthur and MPC Vice-President Heidi Murphy. In February 2021 The Age's Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker presented a sell-out session on investigative journalism. Both Masterclass events were moderated by ABC journalist and MPC board member Richard Willingham.

NEW SCIENCE QUILL ANNOUNCED

The Club was very pleased to announce a new Quill for Excellence in Science, Medicine and Health Reporting, supported by principal sponsor the University of Melbourne. Announcing the new award at the Quills dinner on 26 March, Melbourne university's Vice-President (Strategy and Culture) Dr Julie Wells said that the events of 2020 had highlighted the importance of journalism that takes science and medicine seriously and seeks to understand and interpret these disciplines for a general audience.



From top: The Edit moderator Rachael Dexter with Fotis Kapetopoulos (Neos Kosmos), Christina Zhou (ABC), and Sylvia Mezher (SBS) during a session on multicultural media; "outback noir" author Jane Harper at a Book club event; Richard Willingham, Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker at the Investigative Journalism Masterclass; Dr Julie Wells announces the new Quill for Excellence in Science, Medicine and Health Reporting.

THE MICHAEL GORDON FELLOWSHIPS



Now in its third round, the Michael Gordon Fellowships program, named in honour of the respected former Age political editor who died suddenly in 2018, enables the pursuit of social justice journalism around the country.

The Club received a record number of applications, all of high quality, for the 2020-21 program, and awarded seven fellowships with a combined value of nearly \$27,000. The successful projects cover issues ranging from closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous education to the gendered impacts of COVID-19.

The Melbourne Press Club is proud to be able to support talented Australian journalists in pursuing important projects in these challenging times and thanks supporters for enabling the program to continue.

THE MPC PUBLIC FUND

For almost half a century, the Melbourne Press Club has been supporting and celebrating great journalism in Victoria and throughout Australia. More than ever, we are playing a vital role defending the importance of a free and diverse media to the health of our democracy.

Now we are seeking your help to maintain and expand our programs to enable quality journalism and develop the next generation of journalists. The Melbourne Press Club Public Fund has been approved to accept tax-deductible donations of \$2 and above.

Gifts to our Public Fund will be used to offer fellowships – such as the Michael Gordon Fellowships for social justice journalism – scholarships and grants. Visit our website for details.

melbournepressclub.com

ROLLS OF HONOUR

LIFE MEMBERS

Mark Baker
Peter Bartlett
Eileen Berry
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Adele Ferguson
Steve Harris
Pat Hayes
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Sue Henderson

Bob Kearsley
Neil Mitchell
Laurie Oakes
David Poulton
Mike Richards
Michael Rowland
Mike Smith
Bernard Teague
John Trevorrow
Michael Venus
Sally White

THE HARRY GORDON AUSTRALIAN SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

2020 Julian Linden The Daily Telegraph
2019 Konrad Marshall Good Weekend magazine

2018 Andrew Rule Herald Sun
2017 Will Swanton The Australian
2016 Caroline Wilson The Age
2015 Gerard Whateley ABC

ROLLS OF HONOUR

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2020	Colin Duck	2008	Geoff Hook
2019	Bruce McAvaney	2008	William Ellis Green (WEG)
2018	Barrie Cassidy	2007	Michelle Grattan and Laurie Oakes
2017	Robert Gottliebse	2006	Bruce Postle and John Lamb
2016	Niki Savva	2005	John Fitzgerald
2015	Mike Sheahan	2004	Les Carlyon
2014	Derryn Hinch	2003	Claude Forell
2013	Mal Walden	2002	Harry Gordon
2012	Dulcie Boling	2001	John Sorell
2011	John Hamilton	2000	Peter Game
2010	Geoff Wilkinson	1999	Les Tanner
2009	Bruce Petty	1998	Peter McFarlane
		1995	Keith Dunstan

GOLD QUILL WINNERS

2020	Russell Jackson	ABC News	2008	Richard Baker and Nick McKenzie	<i>The Age</i>
2019	Michael Willson	<i>AFL Media</i>	2007	Heather Ewart	<i>ABC, Australian Story</i>
2018	Anthony Dowsley and Patrick Carlyon	<i>Herald Sun</i>	2006	Brendan Donohoe	<i>Seven News</i>
2017	The Fairfax Media and ABC Team		2005	Martine Griffiths	<i>Network Ten</i>
2016	Louise Milligan and Andy Burns	<i>ABC, 7.30</i>	2004	Belinda Hawkins	<i>ABC, Australian Story</i>
2015	Adele Ferguson	<i>The Age/Four Corners</i>	2003	Julie-Anne Davies and Steve Waldon	<i>The Age</i>
2014	Adele Ferguson	<i>The Age/Four Corners</i>	2002	Terry McCrann	<i>Herald Sun and The Australian</i>
2013	James Campbell	<i>Herald Sun</i>	2001	Andrew Rule	<i>The Age</i>
2012	Sarah Ferguson and Deb Masters	<i>ABC, Four Corners</i>	2000	Andrew Probyn and Michael Harvey	<i>The Herald Sun</i>
2011	Nick McKenzie, Maris Beck and Tom McKendrick	<i>The Age</i>	1999	Julie-Anne Davies	<i>The Age</i>
2010	Jill Baker	<i>Herald Sun</i>	1998	Andrew Rule	<i>The Age</i>
2009	Cameron Stewart	<i>The Australian</i>	1997	John Schauble	<i>The Age</i>
			1996	Sarah Henderson	<i>ABC, 7.30 Report</i>
			1995	Terry McCrann	<i>Herald Sun</i>

THE GRAHAM PERKIN AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

2020	Nick McKenzie	<i>60 Minutes, Good Weekend</i>	1997	Paul McGeough	<i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2019	Anne Connolly	<i>ABC</i>	1996	Andrew Rule	<i>The Age</i>
2018	Anthony Dowsley	<i>Herald Sun</i>	1995	Rowan Callick	<i>The Australian Financial Review</i>
2017	Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker	<i>The Age</i>	1994	Kate Legge	<i>The Australian</i>
2016	Caro Meldrum-Hanna	<i>ABC Four Corners</i>	1993	Les Carlyon	
2015	Adele Ferguson	<i>The Age/ABC Four Corners</i>	1992	Colleen Ryan	<i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2014	Chris Reason	<i>Seven News</i>	1991	Robert Haupt	<i>The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2013	Caroline Wilson	<i>The Age</i>	1990	Paul Kelly	<i>The Australian</i>
2012	Joanne McCarthy	<i>The Newcastle Herald</i>	1989	Peter Ellingsen	<i>The Age</i>
2011	Neil Mitchell	<i>3AW and Herald Sun</i>	1988	Michelle Grattan	<i>The Age</i>
2010	Laurie Oakes	<i>Nine Network, Herald Sun and Daily Telegraph</i>	1987	Terry McCrann	<i>The Age and The Herald, Melbourne</i>
2009	Gary Hughes	<i>The Australian</i>	1986	Bruce Dover	<i>The Herald, Melbourne and Cameron Forbes</i>
2008	Cameron Stewart	<i>The Australian</i>	1985	Jack Waterford	<i>The Canberra Times</i>
2007	John Silvester	<i>The Age</i>	1984	Creighton Burns	<i>The Age</i>
2006	Tony Koch	<i>The Australian</i>	1983	Evan Whitton	<i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2005	Michael Gordon	<i>The Age</i>	1982	Peter Smark	<i>The Age</i>
2004	Paul McGeough	<i>The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age</i>	1981	Norman Aisbett and David Tanner	<i>The West Australian</i>
2003	Peter Wilson	<i>The Australian</i>	1980	Ron Saw	<i>The Bulletin</i>
2002	John Spooner	<i>The Age</i>	1979	Peter Rodgers	<i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2001	Andrew Rule	<i>The Age</i>	1978	Lenore Nicklin	<i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i>
2000	Paul Toohey	<i>The Australian</i>	1977	Robert Gottiebse	<i>The Australian Financial Review</i>
1999	John Lyons	<i>The Bulletin</i>	1976	Denis Butler	<i>The Newcastle Herald</i>
1998	Pamela Williams	<i>The Australian Financial Review</i>			



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