



MEDIA RELEASE

FAIRFAX MEDIA DOMINATES WALKLEY AWARD FINALISTS

October 18, 2013: The strength of Fairfax Media's independent journalism and its position as Australia's leading news organisation has been highlighted with Fairfax journalists dominating the finalists lists at this year's Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

Fairfax journalists have 27 finalist positions in the prestigious awards that recognise the best in Australian journalism, more than double that of one major media organisation.

"We've successfully introduced some of the biggest changes our newsrooms have ever seen this year, yet our news-breaking ability and agenda-setting is stronger than ever," Fairfax Media Chief Executive Officer, Greg Hywood, said.

"Fairfax is transforming in every part of its operations while maintaining what has long been at our core: quality independent journalism and content. Our audiences are bigger than ever and more engaged across all platforms – print, web, tablet and mobile. Audiences want our quality independent journalism, our stunning photography and artwork, and we deliver it better than anyone else."

Fairfax mastheads attract an audience of more than 9 million Australians each month, across print, web, mobile and tablet, according to the 'emma' (Enhanced Media Metrics Australia) data.* That's 1 in every 2 of the population over 14 years of age. The data recognises *The Sydney Morning Herald* as the nation's most read masthead across all platform readers a month, well ahead of the competition.

Finalists across Fairfax's various mastheads include:

The Sydney Morning Herald received nine Walkley Award nominations; *The Age* received eight nominations; while the Good Weekend magazine received three.

Kate McClymont was nominated for the print news report award for her Eddie Obeid investigations; as well as **Nick McKenzie** and **Richard Baker** in the same category for their investigative reports.

In the Business category, **James Chessell** and **Ben Holgate** were nominated for their reports appearing in *The Australian Financial Review* about Network Ten; and **Adele Ferguson** and **Chris Vedalago** were nominated for their reports on CBA.

The Australian Financial Review's **Pamela Williams** was nominated in the print/text feature writing category (over 4000 words) for "Killing Julia: How Kevin Rudd got even".

Sarah Whyte and **Ben Doherty** were nominated for social equity journalism for their series on Bangladeshi workers after the Rana Plaza collapse.

Richard Baker, **Nick McKenzie** and **Caroline Wilson** and a team from *The Age* were nominated for "Essendon drug scandal" in the all media coverage of a major news event or issue category.

Michael Evans and **Rita Williams** were nominated for headline journalism.

Good Weekend's **Fiona Harari** was nominated for her coverage of indigenous affairs, while **Mark Whittaker's** Good Weekend piece, "Did she do it?", about mother Kathleen Folbigg's murder convictions, and **Michael Bachelard's** "They're taking our children", on West Papua's youth being removed to Islamic religious schools in Java, earned them nominations.

The Age's **John Silvester** and **Caroline Wilson** were nominated for commentary, analysis, opinion and critique.

Multimedia was recognised through **Tony Walters**, **Nicky Phillips**, **Francisca Sallato** and **Andrew Forbes**, who were nominated for their work on "Bone city unmasked", about an isolated piece of Australian wilderness.

Cathy Wilcox was nominated for her cartoon "Kevin cleans up".

For Artwork, **Pat Campbell** from *The Canberra Times*, and *The Age's* **Andrew Dyson** and **Matt Golding**, were nominated.

The Newcastle Herald received three nominations for its coverage of abuse within the Catholic Church, led by **Joanne McCarthy** within the reporting team.

Neil Mitchell of Fairfax Radio's 3AW was nominated in the radio/audio news and current affairs journalism category for "The Ford scoop".

Three Fairfax journalists and two former staff members are among nine finalists for the Walkley book award.

For photography, **Kate Geraghty's** "Asylum", and **Volter Peeters' "2013 Sydney International Rowing Regatta"** received nominations.

The winners of this year's 58th Walkley Awards will be announced in Brisbane on November 28.

Details on the finalists' work can be found at www.walkleys.com/2013finalists.

– Ends –

* emmaTM conducted by Ipsos MediaCT, people 14+ for the 12 months ending June 2013, Nielsen Online Ratings June 2013, people 14+ only.

About Fairfax Media

Fairfax Media is a leading multi-platform media company in Australia and New Zealand. The group comprises metropolitan, rural, regional and community mastheads that offer high-quality, independent journalism and dynamic venues for commerce and information. Fairfax operates five business divisions: Australian Publishing Media, Domain, Digital Ventures, Fairfax Radio and Fairfax New Zealand. Australian Publishing Media has four publishing units – News Media, Business Media, Life Media and Australian Community Media – that generate content across all media platforms for major mastheads *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age*, *The Land*, *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Canberra Times*, brisbanetimes.com.au, WAtoday.com.au, among many others, as well niche websites such as essentialbaby.com.au and thevine.com.au. The APM division also produces prestigious conferences and events that attract large-scale, highly-engaged audiences and community participation.

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