WHO WE ARE

The Melbourne Press Club has been a key part of the Australian media community for almost 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 amongst 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.

Each year the Club hosts one of Australia’s most prestigious media awards, the Quills, where it also presents the annual Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award and the new Harry Gordon Australian Sports Journalist of the Year Award. The Club also presents an annual Lifetime Achievement Award. It is building the Australian Media Hall of Fame to honour the country’s greatest reporters, editors, broadcasters, commentators, photographers and cartoonists.

Speakers at the Club’s monthly lunches have included Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, prime ministers, premiers, authors, sports heroes and top business executives.

OUR BOARD

PRESIDENT
Adele Ferguson    Fairfax Media
Mark Baker

CEO

VICE PRESIDENTS
Michael Rowland    ABC
Eileen Berry    Eileen Berry Trust

TREASURER
David Poulton    Minter Ellison

SECRETARY
Richard Leder    Corrs Chambers Westgarth

SECRETARIAT
Kate Handley    General Manager
David Fisher    Assistant Manager
Jenny Denton    Digital Producer

BOARD
David Broadbent    Broadbent Media
Rob Curtain    Media Consultant
Nicole Denton    VicRoads
Jude Donnelly    AFL
Olivia Hill-Douglas    Media Consultant
Bob Kearsley    Business Essentials
Jonathan Kearsley    Nine News
Ashlyne McGhee    ABC News
Heidi Murphy    3AW
Patrick O’Beirne    Six O’Clock Advisory
Isabelle Oderberg    Cabrini Foundation
Mike Osborne    AAP
Simon Pristel    Seven Network
Justin Quill    Macpherson Kelly Lawyers
Tom Salom    News Corp
Veronica Scott    Minter Ellison

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The Melbourne Press Club capped another very eventful year in 2017 with the formal inauguration of the Australian Media Hall of Fame. At a gala dinner in Sydney in November, more than 50 late and living legends of NSW journalism were inducted. Journalists from the rest of Australia will be honoured in 2018.

The annual Quill Awards dinner in March, with 600 guests, proved the event’s reputation as a celebration of the best of Victorian and Australian journalism. A total of 27 individual Quills were awarded - including a new prize for innovation in journalism - as well as the Australian Journalist and Sports Journalist of the Year awards.

Highlights of the 2017 events calendar included lunches to celebrate the launch of the AFL women’s competition and preview the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, with sporting legends Catherine Freeman and Steve Moneghetti. Visiting US speakers detailed the challenges for media under the Trump Administration and growing global cyber security threats.

A special lunch in September celebrated the career of retiring National Nine News political editor Laurie Oakes, who was made a life member of the MPC in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Australian journalism.

Thanks to all our sponsors, members and friends for their continued support. We look forward to working with you all again in 2018 and beyond.

Mark Baker
Chief Executive

HOW TO JOIN

Membership of the Melbourne Press Club is open to everyone with an interest in the media. Apply online at www.melbournepressclub.com

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

CONNECT WITH US

ADDRESS Level 19, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000
POSTAL ADDRESS GPO Box 769, Melbourne 3001
P + 61 3 9614 2779  E admin@melbournepressclub.com  W melbournepressclub.com
You can find the Melbourne Press Club on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn.
A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE QUILL AWARDS
The Quill Awards for excellence in Victoria journalism are the premier media awards in Victoria and the biggest night of the year for Melbourne Media.

The dinner on Friday 17 March saw 27 individual Quills awarded for achievement in print, television, radio and online. Louise Milligan and Andy Burns of ABC 7.30 won the Gold Quill. The judges applauded their groundbreaking coverage of Cardinal George Pell’s evidence at the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse.

THE GRAHAM PERKIN AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
Australia’s most coveted journalism prize was awarded to Caro Meldrum-Hanna of ABC Four Corners for her expose of abuses in the Northern Territory’s Don Dale Youth Detention Centre. The judges described her work, which triggered a Royal Commission, as powerful and compelling journalism.

The other finalists for the award were Linton Besser of ABC Four Corners, Dan Box of The Australian and Adele Ferguson of The Age.

THE HARRY GORDON AUSTRALIAN SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
Caroline Wilson of The Age and Channel Nine won the second annual Harry Gordon award for her outstanding coverage of Australian football. The judges praised her skills as a reporter and as “a strong and persistent analyst without pretention.”

The other finalists were Greg Baum of The Age, Bruce McAvaney of the Seven Network and Will Swanton of The Australian.

THE MPC LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Niki Savva of The Australian was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding coverage of Australian politics as a reporter, columnist and author. In announcing the award, Laurie Oakes said: “She writes without fear, tells it as she sees it, doesn’t run with the pack and doesn’t flinch under fire.”

From top: Gold Quill winners Andy Burns and Louise Milligan with Monash University Deputy Vice Chancellor Ken Sloan; Perkin winner Caro Meldrum-Hanna; Gordon winner Caroline Wilson; Lifetime Achievement Award winner Niki Savva.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE FUTURE OF NEWS: LUNCH WITH MICHAEL MILLER
A highlight of the 2017 events program was a sold-out lunch with News Corp Australasia executive chairman Michael Miller. In an era when global tech giants are threatening the integrity of news and undermining its provenance, Miller said the future of those who create local premium content had never been more important. And he said the fight to protect and preserve our journalism, our revenues and our ability to compete has never been more critical.

THE EDIT
The forum for young journalists run by young journalists hosted another series of outstanding events. Guests included the multi-award winning Afghanistan-based photojournalist Andrew Quilty and Perkin Award-winning investigative journalist Caro Meldrum-Hanna. Herald Sun FOI editor Fiona Hudson ran a special freedom of information masterclass.

The Edit, supported by the Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund, is all about developing the skills of the next generation of reporters, editors and photographers by enabling them to learn, network and support each other. Regular functions are held at casual venues in Melbourne’s CBD.

STATE BUDGET DEBRIEF
The day after handing down his third state budget, Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas addressed another special business briefing lunch hosted by the Melbourne Press Club in partnership with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Pallas spoke about the government’s plans for industry and employment and took Q&A from the audience.

The post-Budget lunch is now a regular fixture on Melbourne’s business and media calendars.

From top: Former President Michael Rowland with News Corp’s Michael Miller; Andrew Quilty at The Edit; Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas; US investigative journalists Tonya Mosley and Aaron Glantz at a lunch in August.
'MEDIA LEGENDS', THE BOOK

‘Media Legends: Journalists who Helped Shape Australia’ is the companion book to the Media Hall of Fame. In a series of meticulously crafted and researched chapters written by some of the greats of contemporary Australian journalism, the book details the lives and times of Australia’s pioneering and contemporary media workers, whose collective work has helped define the nation. A second edition will be published in late 2018.

To purchase a copy, contact admin@melbournepressclub.com or call 03 9614 2779.

THE AUSTRALIAN MEDIA HALL OF FAME

More than 50 late and living legends of journalism in New South Wales were inducted into the Australian Media Hall of Fame at a November 2017 gala dinner in Sydney.

The induction of the reporters, photographers, broadcasters, cartoonists, editors and publishers inaugurated the national phase of the Media Hall of Fame project. They include trail blazing women journalists Ita Buttrose and Anne Summers, star broadcasters Mike Willessee and John Laws, global investigative journalists Phillip Knightley and John Pilger and publishers Sir Frank and Kerry Packer.

The keynote address to the dinner was delivered by veteran Sydney Morning Herald investigative journalist Kate McClymont, who was also inducted for her outstanding contribution to Australian journalism.

The Australian Media Hall of Fame is an initiative of the Melbourne Press Club aimed at celebrating through individual stories how journalism has benefited the Australian public and shaped our history.

ROLLS OF HONOUR

LIFE MEMBERS
Steve Harris  
Mark Baker  
Peter Bartlett  
Jim Clarke  
Claude Forell  

Pat Hayes  
Ian Henderson  
Sue Henderson  
Geoff Hook  

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
2011 John Hamilton  
2010 Geoff  
2016 Niki Savva  
2015 Mike Sheahan  
2014 Derryn Hinch  
2013 Mal Walden  
2012 Dulcie Boling  

2008 The Age  
2007 The Age  
2006 The Age  
2005 The Age  
2004 The Age  
2003 The Age  

GOLD QUILL WINNERS
2016 Louise Milligan & Andy Burns  
2015 Adelle Ferguson  
2014 Adelle Ferguson  
2013 James Campbell  
2012 Sarah Ferguson & Deb Masters  
2011 Nick McKenzie, Maris Beck  
2010 Jill Baker  
2009 Cameron Stewart  
2008 Richard Baker & Nick McKenzie  
2007 Heather Ewart  

2008 The Age  
2007 The Age  
2006 The Age  
2005 The Age  
2004 The Age  
2003 The Age  

AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
1996 Andrew Rule  
1995 Rowan Callick  
1994 Kate Legge  
1993 Les Carlyon  
1992 Colleen Ryan  
1991 Robert Haupt  
1990 Paul Kelly  
1989 Peter Ellingsen  
1988 Michelle Grattan  
1987 Terry McCrann  
1986 Bruce Dover  
1985 Jack Waterford  
1984 Creighton Burns  
1983 Evan Whittam  
1982 Peter Smark  
1981 Norman Aisbett and David Tanner  
1980 Ron Saw  
1979 Peter Rodgers  
1978 Lenore Nicklin  
1977 Robert Gottliebsen  
1976 Denis Butler  

THE GRAHAM PERKIN
1996 Andrew Rule  
1995 Rowan Callick  
1994 Kate Legge  
1993 Les Carlyon  
1992 Colleen Ryan  
1991 Robert Haupt  
1990 Paul Kelly  
1989 Peter Ellingsen  
1988 Michelle Grattan  
1987 Terry McCrann  
1986 Bruce Dover  
1985 Jack Waterford  
1984 Creighton Burns  
1983 Evan Whittam  
1982 Peter Smark  
1981 Norman Aisbett and David Tanner  
1980 Ron Saw  
1979 Peter Rodgers  
1978 Lenore Nicklin  
1977 Robert Gottliebsen  
1976 Denis Butler  

THE HERALD, MELBOURNE
1996 Andrew Rule  
1995 Rowan Callick  
1994 Kate Legge  
1993 Les Carlyon  
1992 Colleen Ryan  
1991 Robert Haupt  
1990 Paul Kelly  
1989 Peter Ellingsen  
1988 Michelle Grattan  
1987 Terry McCrann  
1986 Bruce Dover  
1985 Jack Waterford  
1984 Creighton Burns  
1983 Evan Whittam  
1982 Peter Smark  
1981 Norman Aisbett and David Tanner  
1980 Ron Saw  
1979 Peter Rodgers  
1978 Lenore Nicklin  
1977 Robert Gottliebsen  
1976 Denis Butler  

THE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM RIBBON
1996 Andrew Rule  
1995 Rowan Callick  
1994 Kate Legge  
1993 Les Carlyon  
1992 Colleen Ryan  
1991 Robert Haupt  
1990 Paul Kelly  
1989 Peter Ellingsen  
1988 Michelle Grattan  
1987 Terry McCrann  
1986 Bruce Dover  
1985 Jack Waterford  
1984 Creighton Burns  
1983 Evan Whittam  
1982 Peter Smark  
1981 Norman Aisbett and David Tanner  
1980 Ron Saw  
1979 Peter Rodgers  
1978 Lenore Nicklin  
1977 Robert Gottliebsen  
1976 Denis Butler  

THE AUSTRALIAN MEDIA HALL OF FAME ROLLS OF HONOUR

From top: Kate McClymont of The Sydney Morning Herald, Cartoonist Patrick Cook and Jean Kiltsen; Photographer Russell McPhedran (seated) with family and friends.

For more information, please visit: melbournepressclub.com

To purchase a copy, contact admin@melbournepressclub.com or call 03 9614 2779.