



MELBOURNE  
PRESS CLUB

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2021 / 22



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

---

# 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

---

### PRESIDENT

**Nick McKenzie** *The Age*

### CEO

**Cathy Bryson**

### VICE PRESIDENTS

**Ashlynn McGhee** *ABC*

**Heidi Murphy** *Nine/3AW*

### TREASURER

**Veronica Scott** *KPMG*

### SECRETARY

**Richard Leder** *Corrs Chambers Westgarth*

### SECRETARIAT

**Kate Handley** *General Manager*

**Maddy Duggan** *Membership  
and Administration Coordinator*

**Emily Kulich** *Digital Producer*

**Pranjali Sehgal** *Assistant Digital Producer*

**Debbie Slater** *Accountant*

### BOARD

**Ashley Argoon** *Herald Sun*

**Eileen Berry** *Parent Guides Ltd*

**Patrick Considine** *MinterEllison*

**Rachael Dexter** *The Age*

**Jude Donnelly** *AFL*

**Fotis Kapetopoulos** *Neos Kosmos*

**Matilda Marozzi** *ABC*

**Kate McGrath** *Nine*

**Pat O'Beirne** *Six O'Clock Advisory*

**Paul Paton** *Federation of Victorian Traditional  
Owner Corporations*

**Justin Quill** *Thomson Geer*

**Tom Salom** *News Corp*

**Lynne Scrivens** *7NEWS*

**Nicole Strahan** *Network 10*

**Richard Willingham** *ABC*

---

### CONNECT WITH US

**ADDRESS** Level 23, Rialto South Tower, 525 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

**P:** +61 3 8080 3610 **E:** [admin@melbournepressclub.com](mailto:admin@melbournepressclub.com) **W:** [melbournepressclub.com](http://melbournepressclub.com)

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](http://www.melbournepressclub.com)

---

---

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

---



2021 was not without its challenges for the Melbourne Press Club. Staying relevant, continuing to deliver benefits for our members, sponsors and supporters and remaining sustainable were top of mind through another pandemic year. Under the leadership of President Nick McKenzie, the Melbourne Press Club has a strong foundation for a fantastic 2022. We welcomed Paul Paton from the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations to our board, who will provide us a lens to continue to ensure diversity and inclusiveness is embraced. We also welcomed Nicole Strahan and Fotis Kapetopoulos to our board this year.

We again hosted the Quill Awards Dinner as a live event in March 2022, bringing together more than 580 people from our industry for a much needed celebration. The Gold Award this year went to Michael Warner from the Herald Sun.



Our Masterclass series continued with topics such as Data Journalism. Edit events for young journalists were popular with events such as 'How to interview media trained talent', 'How to pitch your story' and 'How to report sexual assault'. We were able to deliver some of these in person and some via webinar.

The bookclub series continued in 2021. Our focus is on journalists that have become authors. Lisa Millar with 'Daring to Fly' was a full house as Michael Rowland asked the hard questions.

The Media IFTAR dinner is a special event in April that we host in partnership with the Australian Intercultural Society. Our partnership with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce enables us to deliver the State Budget Address by Tim Pallis.



Media lunches included an address by Gaven Morris, 'Media and Health literacy', 'Victoria's Truth and Justice Process' with Minister Gabrielle Williams and Sally Capp Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

The gratitude we feel to our sponsors, supporters and donors who enable us to deliver our mission and objectives is heartfelt in another tough economic year: University of Melbourne, Thomson Geer, Crown Resorts, 3AW, ABC, Herald Sun, Nine, Seven, Sky News, Ten, The Age, Australia Post, Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations, Swinburne University of Technology, Lion, McGrath Nicol, MinterEllison, TAC, Telstra, US Consulate, Vic Gov, Vic Health, Corrs Chamber Westgarth, Hope & Glory, Judith Neilson Institute, Kilvington Grammar, Mediality, RACV, Victorian Chamber of Commerce, Wilnic, Copyright Agency Fund, National Press Club, Robyn Carter & Family, Corrie Perkin, Master Publisher, Media Express.



Our Gordon Fellowships are all nearing completion after our fellows had challenges with travel arrangements. We welcomed Maddy Duggan to our team this year after farewelling Anna Marulli in December. Kate Handley and Emily Kulich continue to be valued members of our team. We are grateful for our new office space on the 23rd floor of the Rialto hosted by Thomson Geer.

**Cathy Bryson, Chief Executive Officer**

**FROM TOP:** Paul Paton (left) with winners of the 2021 Quill for Excellence in Indigenous Affairs Reporting; Herald Sun's Monique Hore at an Edit event, with host Matilda Marozzi (left) and Kate McGrath (Nine News); ABC News Breakfast co-hosts Michael Rowland and Lisa Millar with MPC CEO Cathy Bryson; Speaking during the club's 'Reporting, newsrooms and mental health' webinar is then-Dart Centre Asia Pacific Managing Director Dr Cait McMahon.

---

# 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. We had more than 580 in attendance for the recognition and celebration on 18th March 2022.

The Gold Quill was awarded to Michael Warner from the Herald Sun for 'Magpies racism shame' Herald Sun, 1 February 2021.

Samantha Maiden was a worthy recipient of the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award for coverage of abuse in Parliament House published by News.com.au.

The Harry Gordon Australian Sports Journalist of the Year was awarded to Michael Warner for 'Fearless and ferocious' reporting on the culture of the AFL.

Liam Mannix from The Age won the inaugural Excellence in Science, Medical & Health Reporting Quill.

This year Olivia Jenkins of the Herald Sun won the Young Journalist of the Year Award.

The student Journalist of the year was awarded to Petra Stock of Melbourne University for 'National Treasure' published in Australian Geographic.

The MPC Lifetime Achievement Award was deservedly won by Caroline Wilson.



**FROM TOP:** University of Melbourne Dean of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science Jane Gunn presents The Age's Liam Mannix with the inaugural Quill for Excellence in Science, Medical & Health Reporting; Samantha Maiden of News.com.au accepts the 2021 Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year award for her coverage of abuse at Australian Parliament House; Michael Warner accepts the 2021 Gold Quill for his revelation of Collingwood Football Club's secret 'Do Better' report. Michael's 'fearless and ferocious' AFL coverage also won him the 2021 Harry Gordon Australian Sports Journalist of the Year award; Veteran sports reporter and commentator Caroline Wilson accepting her Lifetime Achievement Award. During her speech she reflected on her early career experiences as one of very few female footy reporters.



---

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW: KEY INITIATIVES

---



## EDIT PROGRAM

Our Edit program is for students, young and early career journalists. During the pandemic these events were mostly delivered as webinars, however we are looking forward to resuming our informal pub style format with chatham house rules where any question of our panellists is welcome. These events are held in the early evening to allow for accessibility.

## MASTERCLASS PROGRAM

Our masterclass program is for our mid career journalists. We take a deep dive into particular and specific topics of interest. These events are held early evening and have an element of networking after the learning/panel/speaker portion of the night.

## MENTORING

We will be calling for mentees towards the end of April 2022. Our mentoring program is tailored to the needs and career aspirations of our mentees and we invest quite some time in matching our cohort of mentees with a mentor that is just right.



## BOOK CLUB

We work with the support from Corrie Perkin from 'Corrie is Reading' to present a series of either webinars or in person events with an author that was a journalist or around a book of interest for our membership.



## MEDIA LUNCHES

Our media lunches address the topics of the day and provide an opportunity for our members and our sponsors to come together to hear from thought leaders and ask their burning questions.

## MEDIA IFTAR

The Melbourne Press Club has partnered with the Australian Intercultural Society to present the Media Iftar Dinner on Thursday 28 April 2022. An interesting panel and an opportunity to enjoy and learn more of the Muslim hospitality.



**FROM TOP:** Craig Butt speaks at February's data journalism Masterclass, hosted by Richard Willingham; Journalist-turned-author Katherine Firkin during an MPC Book Club event; Our final Media Lunch of 2021 starred outgoing ABC News director Gaven Morris (right), interviewed by MPC CEO Nick McKenzie; Dr Nasya Bahfen, senior lecturer at Latrobe University, speaks at the 2021 Media Iftar.

---

# 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 Melbourne Press Club is pleased to award \$18,000 in grants in the latest round of the Michael Gordon Journalism Fellowships program.

Our national fellowships program supports social justice journalism by funding projects newsrooms might not have the resources to cover. It is named in memory of Michael Gordon, the respected former political editor of The Age newspaper who died suddenly in February 2018.

This round's successful projects cover a range of social justice issues. The four journalists chosen as 2021-22 Michael Gordon Fellows are:

- Jordyn Beazley – University of Melbourne, The Citizen – 'Things are crook in the bush'
- Ruby Schwartz – Schwartz Media, 7am Podcast – 'Investigating Indigenous voter suppression'
- Miki Perkins – The Age – Investigating how climate change and rising sea levels are affecting the life and future of traditional owners in Torres Strait.
- Charlotte Grieve – The Age/SMH – 'A project examining the impact of the federal government's energy strategy on regional communities as well as the environment.'

---

## THE MPC PUBLIC FUND

---

For 50 years, 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](http://melbournepressclub.com)

---

## ROLLS OF HONOUR

---

### LIFE MEMBERS

Mark Baker  
Peter Bartlett  
Eileen Berry  
Jim Clarke  
Rob Curtin

Claude Forell  
Adele Ferguson  
Steve Harris  
Ian Henderson  
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

2021 Michael Warner *Herald Sun*  
2020 Julian Linden *The Daily Telegraph*  
2019 Konrad Marshall *Good Weekend*

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

2021	Caroline Wilson	2012	Dulcie Boling	2005	John Fitzgerald
2020	Colin Duck	2011	John Hamilton	2004	Les Carlyon
2019	Bruce McAvaney	2010	Geoff Wilkinson	2003	Claude Forell
2018	Barrie Cassidy	2009	Bruce Petty	2002	Harry Gordon
2017	Robert Gottliebse	2008	Geoff Hook	2001	John Sorell
2016	Niki Savva	2008	William Ellis Green (WEG)	2000	Peter Game
2015	Mike Sheahan	2007	Michelle Grattan and Laurie Oakes	1999	Les Tanner
2014	Derryn Hinch	2006	Bruce Postle and John Lamb	1998	Peter McFarlane
2013	Mal Walden			1995	Keith Dunstan

## GOLD QUILL WINNERS

2021	Michael Warner	2008	Richard Baker and Nick McKenzie	<i>The Age</i>
2020	Russell Jackson	2007	Heather Ewart	<i>ABC, Australian Story</i>
2019	Michael Willson	2006	Brendan Donohoe	<i>Seven News</i>
2018	Anthony Dowsley and Patrick Carlyon	2005	Martine Griffiths	<i>Network Ten</i>
2017	The Fairfax Media and ABC Team	2004	Belinda Hawkins	<i>ABC, Australian Story</i>
2016	Louise Milligan and Andy Burns	2003	Julie-Anne Davies and Steve Waldon	<i>The Age</i>
2015	Adele Ferguson	2002	Terry McCrann	<i>Herald Sun and The Australian</i>
2014	Adele Ferguson	2001	Andrew Rule	<i>The Age</i>
2013	James Campbell	2000	Andrew Probyn and Michael Harvey	<i>The Herald Sun</i>
2012	Sarah Ferguson and Deb Masters	1999	Julie-Anne Davies	<i>The Age</i>
2011	Nick McKenzie, Maris Beck and Tom McKendrick	1998	Andrew Rule	<i>The Age</i>
2010	Jill Baker	1997	John Schauble	<i>The Age</i>
2009	Cameron Stewart	1996	Sarah Henderson	<i>ABC, 7.30 Report</i>
		1995	Terry McCrann	<i>Herald Sun</i>

## THE GRAHAM PERKIN

### AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

2021	Samantha Maiden	<i>news.com.au</i>	1998	Pamela Williams	<i>The Australian Financial Review</i>
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>

50

MELBOURNE  
PRESS CLUB

SPONSORS

## PRINCIPAL



## PREMIUM

THOMSON GEER  
LAWYERS

## MAJOR MEDIA



THE AGE

Herald Sun



## MAJOR



MinterEllison



## AWARDS &amp; PROGRAMS

THE AGE

COPYRIGHT AGENCY  
CULTURAL FUND

Herald Sun

Robyn Carter  
& Family

## CORPORATE



mediality.



## SUPPORTERS



M E D I A X P R E S S

Sponsorship enquiries now welcome. Please contact CEO Cathy Bryson at [cathy@melbournepressclub.com](mailto:cathy@melbournepressclub.com)