



PRESS RELEASE UNDER STRICT EMBARGO

DO NOT PUBLISH BEFORE 11:30PM FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021

MPC NATIONAL AWARDS

THE 2020 GRAHAM PERKIN AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR (SUPPORTED BY *THE AGE*)

Winner: Nick McKenzie

Nine Network's *60 Minutes* and *Good Weekend Magazine*

Judges' citation: Nick McKenzie's impressive body of work in 2020 added to the breadth and depth of his investigative journalism over many years. The scope and ambition of his work, matched with a commitment to pursuing the story beyond the scoop, make him a good fit with the intentions of the Graham Perkin award. McKenzie's work on war crimes, Crown casino, and corruption in the Victorian branch of the ALP, in particular, continues to make a difference, not just by prompting official actions and inquiries but by encouraging other media to investigate issues and building a more open public conversation about key institutions and values. McKenzie shines a powerful light. His is quality journalism critical to our democracy.

THE WINNING ENTRY

["The Faceless man"](#), *60 Minutes*, June 2020

["One last mission"](#), *Good Weekend*, 27 June 2020

["The Final Battle"](#), *60 Minutes*, November 2020

["Crown Unmasked \(Update 2020\)"](#), *60 Minutes*, February 2020

["Law Unto Themselves"](#), *60 Minutes*, December 2020

OTHER FINALISTS

Lorena Allam, *The Guardian*

Jacqueline Maley and Kate McClymont, *SMH, The Age*

Mark Willacy, ABC

*Articles about the winners will be available on [our website](#) after 11pm.
For general info about our awards, visit: <https://www.melbournepressclub.com>*

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MPC NATIONAL AWARDS (Cont'd)

THE 2020 HARRY GORDON AUSTRALIAN SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Winner: Julian Linden

The Daily Telegraph

Judges' citation: The judges selected Julian Linden's folio from a field strong in quality and numbers. That Linden's stories were well-written is a given in a category that attracts some of journalism's most polished writers. But his work impressed with its other qualities: it broke new ground, it was bold and genuinely investigative. The panel praised Linden's fearless investigation of the death of a teenage Olympic skater and his probing of dysfunctional Hockeyroos management. His Tokyo Olympics story displayed knowledge and insight about the games behind the Games. We believe Harry Gordon would approve his grit as well as his grace.

THE WINNING ENTRY

["The alarm bell rings: Why the Tokyo Games must be put on hold"](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 15 March 2020

"It's Games over for Australian athletes", *Daily Telegraph*, 23 March 2020

["The tragic toll of a medal dream"](#), *Daily Telegraph Sunday Extra*, 22 August 2020

["Shanya swam against the fiercest tide"](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 21 November 2020

["Hockeyroo starts legal battle over contract termination"](#), *Daily Telegraph*, 9 December 2020

Please note that links to stories may not comprise the full entry submitted for consideration.

OTHER FINALISTS

Greg Baum, *The Age*

Belinda Hawkins, ABC

Russell Jackson, ABC