

## ABOUT GRAHAM PERKIN

Graham Perkin (1929-1975) was one of the finest Australian editors of the 20th century.

Perkin led *The Age* from 1966 until his sudden death in 1975. He revived the paper so completely that it became recognised internationally as one of the world's best newspapers. He showed inspirational and courageous leadership and promoted young talent. He advocated fiercely for press freedom.

Above all, Perkin had a passion for the words, pictures and cartoons and he could make them dance together on a page. It was a time of great commercial success for *The Age*.

At a dinner to mark the 40th anniversary of Perkin's death, former *Sunday Times* editor Sir Harold Evans sent a tribute comparing him with legendary *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee: "Graham and Ben shared a trait: both ran straight into the cannon's mouth in defence of courageous independent journalism."

Evans said Perkin believed "only a truly independent newspaper could stand between the greedy, the bullies, the con men, the bureaucrats, the malefactors of great wealth - between this unvarying cast and a trusting public. Right then, Graham, and right now than ever."

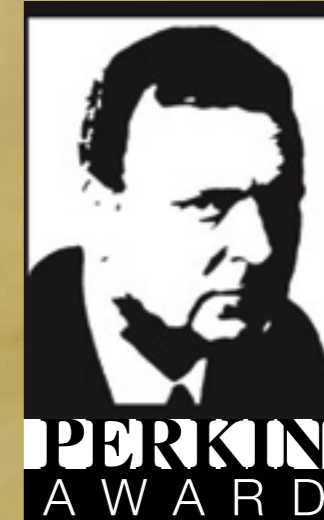
## THE MOST COVETED PRIZE IN AUSTRALIAN JOURNALISM

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42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
Australian  
Journalist  
of the Year



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# ABOUT THE AWARD

The Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award is the most coveted prize in Australian journalism. The winner receives a \$20,000 prize, a certificate and permanent recognition for excellence. The Perkin is independently administered by the Melbourne Press Club, which appoints the judges. The award is sponsored by *The Age* and Virgin Australia.

The award will be presented at the 2017 Quill Awards for Excellence in Victorian Journalism at Crown Palladium on 16 March 2018.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The Perkin is open to any Australian journalist or editor/director whose work appears in 2017. Originally established for print journalists, it is now open to broadcast and online journalists. Nominees may enter themselves or be nominated by their editors. Colleagues may nominate an editor for outstanding leadership and campaigning. Journalists may nominate people from other news organisations. By accepting the prize, the winner agrees to speak at an event hosted by the Melbourne Press Club in 2018.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

The independent judges are asked to look for journalism that is memorable and excellent. They are asked to reward work that is consistent with the journalism practised by Graham Perkin.

The Perkin award may be won with a single report, a series or a body of work. It may be won by an editor or producer. It may be won by a photographer, cartoonist or artist. It may be won by a reporter, feature writer, specialist writer, commentator or blogger.

It can be awarded for a portfolio of work throughout the year. But volume alone will not win the award unless it has the prime qualities of being consistently excellent and memorable. The Perkin Award is for an individual. Nominations for an individual whose work was part of a team effort must be accompanied by a signed statement from the editorial supervisor that the nominee was the prime originator and developer of the work.

## HOW TO ENTER

Entries should include a statement of no more than 1000 words summarising the work and achievements of the entrant and include a maximum of five examples of their work. For print and online journalism, PDFs of the page or pages of the work examples should be attached. For broadcast journalism, links should be provided to the video or audio files that are publicly available and downloadable. In the case of large video files, four DVDs including copies of the work should be posted to the Melbourne Press Club at **GPO Box 769, Melbourne 3001**.

For further details and the online application form, go to **www.melbournepressclub.com**  
Enquiries: **admin@melbournepressclub.com** or **(03) 9614 2779**

# HONOUR ROLL

2016: **Caro Meldrum-Hanna**  
*ABC Four Corners*  
For her reporting on the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre scandal.

2015: **Adele Ferguson**  
*The Age/ABC Four Corners*  
For her outstanding coverage of a series of corporate scandals, including wage fraud at 7-Eleven.

2014: **Chris Reason**  
*Seven News*  
For his breaking coverage of the Lindt Cafe siege.

2013: **Caroline Wilson**  
*The Age*  
For outstanding work on the Essendon Football Club drugs scandal.

2012: **Joanne McCarthy**  
*The Newcastle Herald*  
For sustained investigations into child sexual abuse.

2011: **Neil Mitchell**  
*3AW and Herald Sun*  
For outstanding radio broadcasting and news breaking.

2010: **Laurie Oakes**  
*The Nine Network and Herald Sun / Daily Telegraph*  
For outstanding reporting on the federal election.

2009: **Gary Hughes**  
*The Australian*  
For a memorable eyewitness account of how Hughes and his wife survived the Black Saturday bushfires.

2008: **Cameron Stewart**  
*The Australian*  
For a portfolio of work including news exclusives, high-class features and four magazine cover stories.

2007: **John Silvester**  
*The Age*  
For exceptional news breaking and explanatory reporting on Melbourne’s underworld feud and other significant crimes.

2006: **Tony Koch**  
*The Australian*  
For courageous and relentless reporting of the events surrounding the death of Cameron Doomagee.

2005: **Michael Gordon**  
*The Age*  
For a compelling series of reports on 54 largely forgotten refugees detained on Nauru.

2004: **Paul McGeough**  
*Sydney Morning Herald/The Age*  
For consistently high quality work on post-war Iraq, often gathered in extremely difficult circumstances.

2003: **Peter Wilson**  
*The Australian*  
For providing a unique personal insight into the Iraq war and a distinctively accurate and well-written analysis of the war’s course and consequences.

2002: **John Spooner**  
*The Age*  
For being an incisive editorial commentator of the highest calibre: thoughtful, acerbic, artistic, brilliant.

2001: **Andrew Rule**  
*The Age*  
For the quality and precision of his research, superb demonstration of professional technique and sheer courage.

2000: **Paul Toohey**  
*The Australian*  
For the strength, range and impact of his work from northern Australia on a range of issues.

1999: **John Lyons**  
*The Bulletin*  
For ground-breaking and outstanding reporting of national affairs.

1998: **Pamela Williams**  
*Australian Financial Review*  
For an exquisite series on the national waterfront dispute aimed at smashing a union.

1997: **Paul McGeough**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*  
For a truly astonishing body of work including a day-by-day reconstruction of the Thredbo disaster.

1996: **Andrew Rule**  
*The Age*  
For a portfolio of work, including an exclusive interview with a Port Arthur massacre survivor.

1995: **Rowan Callick**  
*Australian Financial Review*  
For being Australia’s pre-eminent commentator and journalist in the Pacific area.

1994: **Kate Legge**  
*The Australian*  
For outstanding articles reflecting the diverse nature of social issues affecting families.

1993: **Les Carlyon**  
For consistent excellence.

1992: **Colleen Ryan**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*  
For excellence in investigative journalism.

1991: **Robert Haupt**  
*The Age/Sydney Morning Herald*  
For outstanding work in bringing knowledge of Russian affairs to readers.

1990: **Paul Kelly**  
*The Australian*  
For outstanding political commentary.

1989: **Peter Ellingsen**  
*The Age*  
For coverage of the student uprising in Beijing, reports that were “vivid and outstanding for their maturity and compassion”.

1988: **Michelle Grattan**  
*The Age*  
For being the pre-eminent political reporter.

1987: **Terry McCrann**  
*The Age and The Herald, Melbourne*  
For being a prolific business journalist of the highest level.

1986: **Bruce Dover**  
*The Herald, Melbourne* and  
**Cameron Forbes**  
*The Age*  
Joint winners for reporting the affairs of South East Asia with distinction and courage.

1985: **Jack Waterford**  
*Canberra Times*  
For enterprise, initiative and success in making use of the Freedom of Information Act.

1984: **Creighton Burns**  
*The Age*  
For courageous and sustained leadership and outstanding investigative journalism into organised crime.

1983: **Evan Whitton**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*  
For his coverage and commentary on the Wran Royal Commision.

1982: **Peter Smark**  
*The Age*  
For coverage of major overseas events including the Falklands War, events in South Africa, Geneva arms talks and the Papal visit to Britain.

1981: **Norman Aisbett and David Tanner**  
*The West Australian*  
For their series of articles and photographs on the rescue of Vietnamese boat people at sea.

1980: **Ron Saw**  
*The Bulletin*  
For an article on his recovery from a stroke.

1979: **Peter Rodgers**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*  
For his story on the human cost of Indonesia’s war in East Timor.

1978: **Lenore Nicklin**  
*Sydney Morning Herald*  
For the contribution made by one of her articles to public understanding and knowledge of heroin abuse.

1977: **Robert Gottliebsen**  
*Australian Financial Review*  
For excellence in business journalism, in particular coverage of the Gollin collapse.

1976: **Denis Butler**  
*Newcastle Morning Herald*  
For a series of articles on the legal difficulties which prevented adults who were adopted from tracing their natural parents.