



2020 MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

STUDENT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD CRITERIA

The MPC Student Journalist of the Year award recognises and promotes excellence in Victorian student journalism.

1. The award has been established to promote and recognise excellence in Victorian student journalism. Entry is restricted to students resident in or studying in Victoria at a recognised Victorian educational institution.
2. Each entrant must nominate a piece of journalism in any media as the primary item to be considered by the judges. Where the primary item forms part of a series or a package, up to two further associated items may be submitted by the entrant to support it or provide necessary context. If this condition is not strictly adhered to the judges may in their discretion **either** select one item from those submitted by the entrant as the primary item, or exclude the entry from consideration.
3. Entries must have been first published or broadcast in outlets available to the general public in Victoria during the 2020 calendar year.
4. The entrant must be enrolled as a student at the time of the publication or broadcast.
5. Entries must be submitted by no later than **5pm on Thursday 7 January 2021**.
6. Each entry must comply with the [MEAA Code of Ethics](#) and must declare any subsequent formal corrections, claims for plagiarism, or any other legal proceedings commenced in relation to the entry.
7. Each entrant must certify that the entry is their original work.
8. Each entrant may submit no more than one entry.
9. The judges reserve the right to reject an entry that in their opinion does not comply with the requirements of the award, without giving any reason.
10. The Melbourne Press Club reserves the right to utilise and reproduce all entries submitted for the purposes of promoting the award.
11. The judges' decision is final. Entries will not be returned and entrants should keep copies of the work submitted.
12. In judging entries, the judges will be guided by the general judging criteria utilised for the Quill Awards, but emphasising the characteristics of **originality, impact, quality and initiative**.
13. Written entries that appeared in print should be accompanied by a digital "tear sheet" of the published work (a PDF image of the page it appeared on). In the case of digital-only entries, a link to the webpage is sufficient. Video and audio can be uploaded to a platform such as [Vimeo](#) or [SoundCloud](#) and must be publicly viewable and set to be downloadable. A JPEG photograph of the entrant is also required.
14. Finalists' names will be published on the Melbourne Press Club website in early March 2021, along with finalist lists for the Quill Awards, and these will also be announced in an email sent to our mailing list (You can sign up to our mailing list at the bottom of the website's home page).
15. The winner will be announced at the 2020 Quills Awards ceremony, which will be held in March 2021.
16. The prize will include return airfares to the United States, accommodation and registration to attend the annual Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) conference, a \$1,000 cash prize, and 12 months membership with the Melbourne Press Club.
17. As a condition of entry, the winner will be required, after attending the IRE conference, to share their experiences with Melbourne Press Club and Judith Neilson Institute audiences. This will be negotiated with winners and may include writing an article, being interviewed for a podcast, and/or giving a short address at an event.