

\$20,000 PRIZE

**AUSTRALIA'S MOST COVETED
MEDIA PRIZE IS EXPANDED
TO COVER PRINT, BROADCAST
AND ONLINE JOURNALISTS**

**THE 34TH ANNUAL
GRAHAM PERKIN AWARD**

**AUSTRALIAN
JOURNALIST
OF THE YEAR**

**ENTRIES OPEN NOW
DEADLINE FEBRUARY 12, 2010**

PRESENTED BY

THE  AGE


**MELBOURNE
PRESS CLUB**

GRAHAM PERKIN

1929-1975



Graham Perkin was one of the finest Australian editors of the 20th century.

Perkin led *The Age* from 1966 to 1975. He revived the paper so completely that it became recognised by international authorities as one of the world's best newspapers. He showed inspirational and courageous leadership and promoted young talent.

He advocated fiercely for Press freedom. He was proud for his journalists to be called muckrakers; if there was muck, it needed to be raked.

Above all, he had a passion for the words, pictures and cartoons. And he could make them sing and dance on a page. He campaigned vigorously and fearlessly. It was no accident that his editorship co-incided with a period of great commercial success for the paper.

Perkin's biographer Ben Hills says of Perkin: "He changed forever the way Australian newspapers look at the world, and what the public expects of its newspapers....many of the innovations he brought to *The Age* have become part of the fabric of the Australian media."

Hills continues: "His ground-breaking use of investigative journalism put law-breakers behind bars and helped bring down governments...he enlarged the scope of newsgathering to include, for the first time, what today are mainstream issues." These included the environment, social welfare, Aboriginal affairs and health.

Hills concludes: "Few would challenge him as the greatest editor of his generation, if not the 20th century." Hills quotes a former editor who described working with Perkin as like batting with Bradman.

"Breaking News: The Golden Age of Graham Perkin" by Ben Hills (Scribe Publications) will be published on 3 May.



THE  AGE

The Graham Perkin Award for Australian Journalist of the Year is independently administered by the Melbourne Press Club, which appoints the judges. The prize money is supplied by The Age.

THE AWARD

The Graham Perkin award is the most coveted prize in Australian journalism. The winner receives \$20,000, a plaque and permanent recognition for excellence.

It will be presented at the dinner for the Melbourne Press Club's Quill Awards for Excellence in Victorian journalism at Crown Palladium in Melbourne on 19 March, 2010.

The annual award began after Graham Perkin died suddenly in 1975. Many of Australia's finest journalists have won the award.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

The award is open to any Australian journalist or editor/director whose work appears in 2009. Print, broadcast and online journalists are eligible.

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.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The independent judges are Les Carlyon, Paul Kelly and Jana Wendt. They 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.

One of the features of the Perkin award is that it can be awarded for a portfolio of work throughout the year. But volume will not win the award unless it has the prime qualities of being consistently excellent and memorable.

HOW TO ENTER

Send a nomination letter, four copies of the work and a photograph of the nominee to:

Chairman
Journalist of the Year Judging Panel
Melbourne Press Club
GPO Box 769G
Melbourne Vic 3001

or deliver to:
Minter Ellison Courier Desk
Level 16 North Tower
Rialto Building
525 Collins Street
Melbourne

ENQUIRIES

03 9614 2779
entries@pressclubonline.com

HONOUR ROLL

- 2008: Cameron Stewart, *The Australian*
 2007: John Silvester, *The Age*
 2006: Tony Koch, *The Australian*
 2005: Michael Gordon, *The Age*
 2004: Paul McGeough, *Sydney Morning Herald/The Age*
 2003: Peter Wilson, *The Australian*
 2002: John Spooner, *The Age*
 2001: Andrew Rule, *The Age*
 2000: Paul Toohey, *The Australian*
 1999: John Lyons, *The Bulletin*
 1998: Pamela Williams, *Australian Financial Review*
 1997: Paul McGeough, *Sydney Morning Herald*
 1996: Andrew Rule, *The Age*
 1995: Rowan Callick, *Australian Financial Review*
 1994: Kate Legge, *The Australian*
 1993: Les Carlyon
 1992: Colleen Ryan, *Sydney Morning Herald*
 1991: Robert Haupt, *The Age/Sydney Morning Herald*
 1990: Paul Kelly, *The Australian*
 1989: Peter Ellingsen, *The Age*
 1988: Michelle Grattan, *The Age*
 1987: Terry McCrann, *The Age* and *The Herald*, Melbourne
 1986: Bruce Dover of *The Herald*, Melbourne and Cameron Forbes, *The Age*
 1985: Jack Waterford, *Canberra Times*
 1984: Creighton Burns, *The Age*
 1983: Evan Whitton, *Sydney Morning Herald*
 1982: Peter Smark, *The Age*
 1981: Norman Aisbett and David Tanner, *The West Australian*
 1980: Ron Saw, *The Bulletin*
 1979: Peter Rodgers, *Sydney Morning Herald*
 1978: Lenore Nicklin, *Sydney Morning Herald*
 1977: Robert Gottlieb, *Australian Financial Review*
 1976: Denis Butler, *Newcastle Morning Herald*

Entries for the 2009 award are now being accepted and must be received by 5pm on February 12, 2010

Download copies of this brochure on www.pressclubonline.com