



March 8, 2010

Media Release

Five short-listed for Australian Journalist of the Year

Three reporters who covered the Black Saturday bushfires are among five journalists short-listed for the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award to be announced next week.

Jane Cowan of the ABC was short-listed for her bushfire reports on television and radio. Gary Hughes was chosen for his eyewitness account of bushfire survival, published in *The Australian* on February 9 last year. Karen Kissane of *The Age* was selected for a portfolio of work on the fires.

Also short-listed were the Sydney Morning Herald's Beijing correspondent, John Garnaut, for a series of reports on China, and Tracy Grimshaw of the Nine Network for three interviews on *A Current Affair*.

The Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award is considered the most coveted award in journalism. The winner receives \$20,000 from *The Age*. The award is administered by the Melbourne Press Club which appointed independent judges Les Carlyon, Paul Kelly and Jana Wendt.

The award is for journalism that is excellent and memorable and consistent with Perkin journalism. Graham Perkin was a crusading and innovative editor who led *The Age's* revival in the 1960s and 1970s before he died suddenly in 1975.

This year the award was open to broadcast and online journalism for the first time.

The Perkin award winner will be announced at a dinner for the Press Club's 2009 Quill Awards for Excellence in Victorian Journalism at Crown Palladium in Melbourne on March 19. (Bookings at www.pressclubonline.com)

Enquiries: Michael Smith

0411 055 306