



STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 10PM Saturday April 4, 2009

## - NEWS RELEASE -

### **INDEPENDENT REPORTER NAMED SA'S JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR**

*The Independent Weekly's* Hendrik Gout has been named South Australian Journalist of the Year at the sixth annual SA Media Ball at the Festival Centre Banquet Room tonight (Saturday, April 4).

In front of 300 of his peers, Gout was recognised for his outstanding body of investigative, news and feature reporting in the 2008 calendar year.

Gout had been honoured earlier in the night as Best Print Journalist and also picked up the Best Three Headings award for his clever headlines in *The Independent Weekly*.

The judges commended Gout's trademark thorough, tough but fair approach to reporting, calling his writing "incisive and evocative". The award was announced by last year's Journalist of the Year Michael Sexton, of the ABC.

The ABC's Ian Henschke was named best TV Broadcaster, while Peter Goers, of 891 ABC Adelaide, won his second consecutive award as Best Radio Broadcaster. Pia Akerman, of *The Australian* was named Young Journalist of the Year.

The annual SA Media Awards are run by the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance and recognise ethics and excellence in reporting by South Australian journalists.

Media Alliance Branch Secretary Angelique Ivanica said the standard of entries for the 2009 awards was extremely high.

Two trailblazers of South Australian journalism also were inducted into the SA Media Hall of Fame. *The Independent Weekly* columnist Don Riddell, who was editor-in-chief of *The Advertiser* from 1975-1985 and ADS7's first news editor in 1959, and Pat Dunstan, former women's reporter and editor at *The News*, *The Advertiser* and the *Sunday Mail*, join earlier inductees Stewart Cockburn, Max Fatchen, Des Colquhoun, and the late Kevin Crease, John Doherty and Michael Atchison on the Hall of Fame honour board.

More than 30 bronze, silver and gold awards were presented at this year's SA Media Awards, with winners coming from a wide range of media outlets, including Messenger Community News, *The Australian*, Kangaroo Island's *The Islander* newspaper, *The Independent Weekly*, *The Advertiser*, the *Sunday Mail*, Channel 9 and Channel 7.

A full list of winners follows.

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### *South Australian Media Awards*

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## SA's Journalist of the Year

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Following is a complete list of awards presented:

### Print & Online

- Best Print News Report, Jamie Walker, The Australian
- Best Print News Feature, Peter Hackett, Advertiser Newspapers
- Best Print Lifestyle Feature, Elissa Doherty, Sunday Mail
- Best Three Headings, Hendrik Gout, The Independent Weekly
- Best Page Layout, Shaun Hollis, Messenger Community News
- Best Print Journalist, Hendrik Gout, The Independent Weekly (Silver Award)
- Best News Photo, Dean Martin, Advertiser Newspapers
- Best Sport Photo, Luke Hemer, Messenger Community News
- Best Feature Photo, Sean McGowan, The Islander
- Best Photographer, Sean McGowan, The Islander (Silver Award)

### Radio

- Best Radio News and Current Affairs Reporting, Alexandra Parry, ABC
- Best Radio Feature, Documentary or Broadcast Special, Nance Haxton, ABC
- Best Radio Broadcaster, Peter Goers, ABC (Silver Award)

### Television

- Best TV News Report, Selga Berzins, Channel 9
- Best TV Current Affairs Report, Michael Sexton, ABC
- Best TV Feature, Documentary or Special, Prue Adams, ABC
- Best TV News or Current Affairs Camera, Rob Brown, Channel 7
- Best TV Broadcaster, Ian Henschke, ABC (Silver Award)

### All Media

- Best Editorial Artist, Ray Hirst, The Advertiser
- Commentary, Analysis, Opinion and Critique, Mike Smithson, Sunday Mail
- Best Coverage of Rural/Regional Affairs, Melissa Vander Haak, Southern Cross Broadcasting
- Best Coverage of Social Equity Affairs, Eszter Vasenszky, Messenger Community News
- Best Coverage of Sport, Reece Homfray, Messenger Community News
- Best Coverage of Suburban Affairs, Eszter Vasenszky, Messenger Community News
- Best Coverage of Youth Affairs, Prue Adams, ABC
- Best Freelance Contribution, Sharon Mascall
- Best Public Relations Campaign, Julie Gregory, David Primer and Peter Morrison, Primary Industries and Resources SA
- Best Young Journalist, Pia Akerman, The Australian (Silver Award)
- Julie Duncan Memorial Award for Student Journalism, Stephanie Boltje and Catherine Graue (Silver Award)
- Media Hall of Fame, Don Riddell and Patricia Dunstan (Gold Award)
- Journalist of the Year, Hendrik Gout, The Independent Weekly (Gold Award)

Further information about the awards is available from [www.samediaawards.com.au](http://www.samediaawards.com.au)

**FURTHER COMMENT:** Angelique Ivanica on 0411 757 665

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