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UTS scoops the pool as student journalist winner is announced!

The Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance and the Walkley Foundation for Journalism are proud to announce the winner of the 2008 MEDIA SUPER Student Journalist of the Year Award.

Open to all tertiary students studying journalism, communications and media-related degrees who have not previously worked full-time in the media, the MEDIA SUPER Student Journalist of the Year Award recognises student journalism across print, radio, television and online.

All students were encouraged to enter an example of their best work, which was judged by a panel of journalists; 2008 Young Australian Journalist of the Year Radio Category winner from Triple J's *Hack* **Michael Atkin**, *The Sydney Morning Herald's* environment reporter **Ben Cubby**, and *Agence France-Presse* reporter, **Amy Coopes**.

The University of Technology, Sydney scooped the pool, taking out the top award, finalist and highly commended positions.

The 2008 MEDIA SUPER Student Journalist of the Year is...

John Connell for his piece, *The Desert Talks Too*, University of Technology, Sydney

The winning piece was a radio entry dealing with the issues surrounding the Northern Territory Intervention and was the culmination of several months of research, interviews and meetings.

The judges said the piece was "well researched, included a huge amount of effort (it covered 14,000 km's), showed solid radio production skills and gave insight to a topic regularly covered by the mainstream media."

"John was able to tell a story he was passionate about in an engaging, comprehensive and skilful way. He was able to interview a broad range of people from the town camps of Bagot to Dr Sue Gordon, the chair of the Northern Territory Emergency Response task force."

"For "The Desert Talks Too" John went beyond what would be expected of a journalism student and indeed many working journalists."

The 2008 finalists are...

Matthew Knott for his piece *Silent Suffering of the New Lepers*, University of Technology, Sydney

This print feature piece examined the plight of those suffering Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome, one of the world's most controversial medical conditions.

The judges commented that the piece was "a thorough and moving examination of a medical condition which has received little attention."

"The piece did not skirt around the serious question marks over some of the claims made by his subjects, but draws on a spectrum of opposing views supported by solid information and well-chosen quotes."

Stephanie Dalzell for her piece *Hordern Pipes Hoard Sewerage*, University of Technology, Sydney

This print piece featured a detailed examination of a massive sewerage blockage and subsequent flooding of Sydney's iconic Hordern Pavilion.

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The judges said that the story was “a good example of how an unlikely-sounding tip-off can be transformed into a detailed investigation.”

“The reporter was persistent. She showed a sharp turn of phrase and a good nose for news.”

Highly Commended this year is...

Simon Nichols for his piece *How To Pick Up Girls*, University of Technology, Sydney

The judging panel commended this feature article which dealt with the unusual American company Real Social Dynamics, who hold seminars on how to meet and pick-up women.

The judges noted that Nichols “showed promise as a lively and entertaining feature writer. Simon took the reader into the strange world of the Real Social Dynamics “training” courses and tried their pick up techniques.”

“While Simon was trying to seduce the ladies, he also raised interesting questions about the motive of the trainers and the people who were willing to pay for advice.”

The Federal Secretary of the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance, Christopher Warren, said the award was important to encouraging young journalists to strive for excellence from an early stage.

“This award continues to attract entries showcasing Australia’s upcoming talent from journalism and media schools across the country,”

“It is heartening for our industry to see responsible and creative journalism being encouraged in our universities, and both students and lecturers are owed our praise for the calibre of entries.”

The Walkley Foundation and the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance would like to sincerely thank the three judges of this award for donating their time and expertise to the judging process.

The winner receives a Macquarie Dictionary pack, a certificate and a ticket to the Young Australian Journalist of the Year Awards in Sydney on June 25 where they will be formally congratulated. Our thanks to MEDIA SUPER for continuing to support the journalists of the future through their funding of the award.

For more information on the award, contact Fleur Mitchell at the Walkley Foundation for Journalism on 02 9333 0956, email fleur.mitchell@alliance.org.au, or visit the Alliance’s student website at <http://www.alliance.org.au/students>

For more information about MEDIA SUPER please visit www.mediasuper.com.au