

March 29 2008

Press Release

Embargoed: 22:30 – March 29 2008

And the Winners are....

Thorough research, a direct approach and an eye for colour have helped *The Australian* newspaper's Tasmanian correspondent, **Matthew Denholm**, win the top prize in the Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance '2007 Tasmanian Media Awards'.

Denholm's success was announced to more than 100 guests at this evening's Awards dinner at Rydges Hotel in Hobart. It's the second consecutive year Denholm has been awarded the Keith Welsh Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism.

Denholm's winning entry constituted several front page exclusives including Geoffrey Cousins' opposition to Gunns' pulp mill and a Beaconsfield miner's anger over the financial imperatives driving unsafe mining practices.

Denholm also revealed a level of election campaign cooperation between the Liberal Party and Exclusive Brethren members, and brought national attention to the pulp mill debate through a magazine feature on the implications for Tamar Valley business owners.

Overall this evening, 12 prizes were awarded in recognition of the outstanding work by some of the state's leading journalists.

Contact: Pat O'Donnell

Federal Industrial Organiser

Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance

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MEAA State President, Barbara Pongratz, commends all the winners.

“2007 was a rich year for local reporters”, Ms Pongratz said.

“Important issues such as Gunns’ pulp mill, the health system, Tasmanian Compliance Corporation, compensation for state wards, battery hen welfare and election campaigning provided a wealth of leads.”

“Tasmanians should feel confident that local journalists are working hard to uncover the truth and hold public figures to account”, Ms Pongratz said.

For more information: Barbara Pongratz 0407 357 457

FULL LIST OF WINNERS:

KEITH WELSH PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO JOURNALISM

Matthew Denholm (The Australian)

Highly commended – Simon Bevilacqua (The Sunday Tasmanian)

AWARD FOR BEST NEW JOURNALIST

Mark Worley (Mercury)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FEATURE WRITING

Matthew Denholm (The Australian)

Highly commended – Jennifer Crawley (Mercury)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRINT, ONLINE AND WIRE SERVICE JOURNALISM

Sue Neales (Mercury)

Highly commended – Matthew Denholm (The Australian)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RADIO CURRENT AFFAIRS

Simon Cullen (ABC)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RADIO NEWS

Simon Cullen (ABC)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Simon Bevilacqua (The Sunday Tasmanian)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMENT OR ANALYSIS

Matthew Denholm (The Australian)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

Matthew Newton (Freelance)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

James Kerr (Mercury)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TELEVISION CURRENT AFFAIRS

Airlie Ward (ABC)

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REPORTING ON MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

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