



Ex-CLC staffer wins Walkley award

Among the winners at the annual newspaper awards ceremony was the founder of the Communications Law Centre's Melbourne office, Paul Chadwick

At the 42nd Walkley Awards in Melbourne on December 3, Paul Chadwick received the 1997 honour for the "Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism".

Paul established the Melbourne office of the Communications Law Centre in 1990, where he worked until earlier this year.

The award is recognition of his extraordinary contribution to journalism.

The following citation was read at the presentation:

The "Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism" award is given to an individual in recognition of the benefits he or she has brought to the industry. Paul Chadwick's contribution to the profession has been so wide-ranging and profound, that what he lacks in years has been more than made up for in commitment and leadership.

Paul's introduction to journalism, as a cadet on the *Sun News Pictorial* in 1977, marked the start of a unique career.

Bylines, recognition and acclaim from peers, editors and readers proved to be less of a motivating factor in his career than his determination to pursue goals of benefit to the industry and, in turn, the role the media plays in our society.

Paul's practical experience as a journalist on *The Sun*, *The Age* and working as a freelancer gave him an intimate understanding of the profession and created his reputation as a responsible and dedicated reporter prepared to act without fear or favour.

It was however, the introduction of freedom of information laws which marked a turning point in Paul's career. While working as a reporter

on *The Age*, Paul established guidelines for his colleagues to assist them to use the new legislation to their best advantage. He published a book in 1985: *FoI - How to use the freedom of information laws*.

His return to *The Sun* in 1986 and the subsequent takeover of the *Herald and Weekly Times* by Rupert Murdoch, prompted Paul to convene the Free the Media coalition in an effort to resist further concentration of media ownership.

To underscore the implications of restricted media ownership, Paul published *Media Mates* in 1989.

The following year he was a member of the Victorian Government's Matthews Committee inquiry into newspaper ownership.

As the founder of the Victorian Communications Law Centre, Paul added another dimension to an ever-changing profession. The non-profit research and teaching organisation, also established in Sydney, is affiliated with universities in both cities.

Between 1990 and 1997, Paul worked for the reform of law on official secrecy, media ownership, copyright, protection of journalists' sources, defamation and protection of whistleblowers.

He also taught media law and ethics in various tertiary institutions, media industry courses and Media Alliance professional-development programs.

It was only natural, therefore, that Paul would be selected to form part of the Brennan Committee, which was established to conduct an extensive review of the Code of Ethics.

Since the release of the committee's final report, Paul has worked tirelessly, travelling the country to explain its recommendations on the

code and in so doing, stimulating debate on ethics.

Paul has also supported International Federation of Journalists' projects to improve journalism training and media freedom in the Asia-Pacific region.

Arguably, Paul has taken it upon himself to empower members of the profession with the skills, knowledge and ethical standards that go a long way towards ensuring that the foundations of his chosen profession are maintained. It is an appropriate time to recognise and reward Paul's outstanding contribution."

In accepting the award, Paul responded:

"It is a fine thing to be honoured by peers and I thank you for it. I thank my wife, Carol Stuart, and my sons Vincent and Jack, for their support. I also thank those who worked before me on the issues I have pursued, my contemporaries who worked with me and those who will pursue these issues after me.

My efforts of the past 20 years can be summarised in four propositions:

- People need timely, diverse information if they are to govern themselves.
- To ensure timely information, journalists and the law will need to take greater care over the issue of protection of journalists' sources.
- To ensure diverse information, the media should be diversely owned and controlled. But if media are to be concentrated, then journalists need to be granted editorial independence.
- To be credible, and to be free of



the state, journalists must be accountable.

All the great journalists through history teach us that power that is not accountable is not legitimate.

Legitimacy is a precious and subtle thing. It is not a matter of law, property, management or marketing. It can never be purchased. Legitimacy is conferred by people in the privacy of their

own minds, and then they manifest it with trust. Legitimacy involves fragile mutual acceptance, not an uneasy unequal contract.

In the current debate over native title, the legitimacy of the Australian nation is in play.

In the current debate over media accountability, the legitimacy of Australian journalism is in play.

One of the good things about

being honoured in journalism is that at least you know someone is reading your work.

But to be read is only half of a journalist's fulfilment.

The other half, the richer half, is to persuade. And then to watch as people, having been persuaded, take action."

Paul Chadwick

Walkley Award Winners

Print

Best news report: Gerard Ryle and Gary Hughes – *The Age* – "Suffer the Children".

Best section or special: Shelley Gare, Jeff Allan, Judith Elen and Marina Skinner -*The Australian's Review of Books*.

Best headings: Stephen Walsh – *The Daily Telegraph*

Best newspaper feature: Gary Tippet – *The Sunday Age* – "Slaying the Monster".

Best magazine feature: Bonita Mason – *HQ* – "The Girl in Cell 4".

Best cartoon: Ron Tandberg – *The Age* – "The Repeat Offender".

Best artwork: Bill Leak – *The Australian* – "The Big Picture".

Best information graphics or digital photo illustration: Viki Sizgoric – *The Australian* – "Black Hawk Inquiry".

Best news photograph: Simon Alekna – *The Sun-Herald* – "The Murdochs visit sick PM".

Best feature photograph: David Dare Parker – *Big Weekend, The West Australian* – "Gypsies of PataRat".

Radio

Best news report: Justin Kelly and Ben Fordham – *Radio 2UE* – "Thredbo".

Best current affairs report: David Spicer – *AM, ABC Radio* – "Juvenile Justice".

Best feature or documentary: Norman Swan – *Science Show, ABC Radio National* – "QUT: A University for the Real World".

Television

Best news report: Glenn Milne – *Channel 7* – "Thredbo Disaster, Day One".

Best current affairs report (less than 15 minutes): Janine Hosking – *Witness, Channel 7* – "Tjandamurra".

Best current affairs report, feature, documentary or special (15 minutes plus): Ben Cheshire and Sophie Emtage – *Australian Story, ABC TV* – "Valentine's Day".

Best cinematography: Chantal Abouchar – *Foreign Correspondent, ABC TV* – "East Timor Resistance".

Excellence

In business reporting: Malcolm Maiden – *The Age* – "Inside the Citadel".

In international reporting: Mary-Louise O'Callaghan – *The Australian* – "Papua New Guinea".

In covering suburban and regional affairs: Ingrid Svendsen – *The Melbourne Times* – "David Marriner Demolition".

In investigative reporting: Paul Daley – *The Sunday Age* – "The Colston Affair".

In indigenous affairs: Bruce Belsham and Victoria Pitt -*ABC TV* - "Frontier".

In coverage of sport: David Wilson and Patrick Smith – *The Age* – "The Encosta de Lago Affair".

In online or wire service journalism: Michael Perry – *Reuters* – "PNG Army Revolt".

In commentary, analysis, reviews and opinion: Tony Stephens – *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

In broadcast presenting: Jim Waley – *Nightline/Sunday, Channel 9*

In coverage of Asia (broadcast): Ross Coulthart and Nick Farrow – *Sunday, Channel 9* – "Cambodia, Descent into Chaos".

In coverage of Asia (print): Rowan Callick – *Australian Financial Review* – "Hong Kong".

In news leadership: Stephen Rice – *Sunday, Channel 9*.

Most outstanding contribution to journalism: Paul Chadwick.

Gold Walkley: Mary-Louise O'Callaghan – *The Australian* – "Papua New Guinea".