

Artwork

Winner Anna Crichton – NZ Herald/ North & South/ Tatler

Judge Dick Frizzell said:

An enduring professional with a soft and constant touch.

Not a lot of illustrating of this calibre in New Zealand. Call me old fashioned but all the photoshop skills in the world are no good to you if you can't draw.

Cartoonist of the Year

Chris Slane: NZ Listener - A distinct, effective edge to the cartoons that carries no favours. Strong views expressed, no fence-sitting. Savage caricature, but those portrayed instantly recognisable

Columnist

Winner - Jane Clifton – NZ Listener

Judge Anton Petre said:

Separating the top three in this contest was exceptionally difficult, and any of the top dozen entrants could easily have won...the point differences were very small, and the talent on display very impressive. Our newspapers and magazines have some top columnists whose work would enhance any newspaper anywhere.

Jane Clifton is the winner. Her columns are well-written, display close knowledge of her subject, have a nicely-judged dose of humour and satire, touches of informed cynicism and above all are completely readable. Whether you agree with her or not is beside the point: she is always suitably opinionated, to the point and professional. Her column could hold its head up anywhere.

Best Editorial Writer

Winner is Pamela Stirling, NZ Listener

Judge Richard Long said:

John Roughan and Nick Venter both excel in the difficult task of producing daily opinion pieces, often requiring rapid research and writing as issues develop. Readers of both dailies are well served by their articulate and well-informed observations and explanations, invariably expressed in a fluent and compelling style.

Pamela Stirling produces elegant and eloquent weekly commentaries on the political and social issues of the day, maintaining a high standard throughout and delightful turns of phrase. Commendable and convincing essays which are a delight to read.

Best Headline

Winner: Karen Eyres: Pagemasters – NZ Herald/BoP Times/Herald on Sunday

Judge Bob Edlin said:

My winner is Karen Eyres, for her suite of attention-grabbing headlines in a variety of situations – for the New Zealand Herald (on a TV review and a business story), for the Bay of Plenty Times (on a letter to the editor) and for the Herald on Sunday (on a feature story).

“The dark side of the moon men” succinctly pulled readers into a feature about the astronauts involved in the Apollo 11 moon landing and their subsequent lives.

“Mobile phone war heats up by 2 degrees” neatly encapsulated a story about the role being played by Two Degrees in the telecommunications industry.

I now must await the dismayed assessment of these decisions by disappointed entrants.

Judge gets it in neck after wrong heads are axed.

Humour/Satire

Winner : Lisa Scott, Otago Daily Times

Judge Tom Scott said:

“Lisa brings a freshness to familiar domestic territory. Lovely self-deprecatory wit which allows her to flay family and friends. Her columns had me laughing again on a second and third reading which is no small feat.”

Best Newstand Magazine

winner: NZ Rugby World

Judges Jenny Wheeler and Geoff Chapple said:

Under Gregor Paul’s editorship NZ Rugby World has raised the bar on what a specialist magazine can achieve.

The magazine has both flair and reach. It serves its target readership well, but its entertaining writing, combative analysis, humour, clarity and intelligence make it an appealing package to a wider constituency.

Best Trade/Professional Magazine

Winner : CIO magazine.

Judge Phil O’Reilly said:

CIO because of its high quality editorial covering issues from a New Zealand perspective – to the extent that it could almost be viewed as ‘required reading’ for Kiwi CIOs. It’s a profession talking to a profession; written by Kiwis for Kiwis.

Best Magazine Cover

Winner: NZ Listener

Judges Mary Major and Hilary Souter said: NZ Listener: Strong and often witty visuals linking to the key feature. Highly informative on content. Great consistency from this weekly magazine.

Best Magazine Designer

Winner : Charlie McKay, Metro Magazine

Judge Matt Martell said:

As I looked at Charlie McKay’s pages, I kept reminding myself that I was looking at design, not reading stories. His intelligent use of colour, typography, illustration and photography draws readers in, entices them to read, read, read. His work stands out through his breadth of styles, depth of understanding of the subject matter and a confidence and competence absent in most other entries.

Best Newspaper Inserted Magazine

Judge Finlay Macdonald said : There is an inherent difficulty with this category in that the range of genres is so broad, it’s hardly apples with apples.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: Time Out (NZ Herald) for its energy and gender-neutral editorial mix, real usefulness as an entertainment guide, and the quality of the reviewing. And The Business Herald (NZ Herald) for its accessibility, topicality and sometimes excellent profile writing.

However, one entry really stood out for me in terms of consistency, that element of surprise you want from a true magazine, and, just as importantly, that sense of it being a different beast from its parent paper. It was also the one that came closest to being able to slap on a cover price and compete as a stand-alone publication.

The winner is Your Weekend – The Press/The Dominion Post/ Waikato Times

Best Front Page

Winner: The New Zealand Herald

Judge Simon Mellick said:

The Nelson Mail put a human face on those who were about to face the cost of a company shedding staff. It’s the classic and still effective bread-and-butter journalism formula...names and faces.

The Press: The element which makes this page is the excellent and fascinating graphic explaining how one grandmother returning to Australia infected more than 630 people with swine flu.

The Herald's entire front page was devoted to a report about the discovery of a child's body in a stormwater drain, only metres from where she lived, a week after she had disappeared. This coverage was a complete package, and brought together with great clarity a powerful lead, image and picture graphic.

Best Single Website Report

Winner Jock Anderson – National Business Review (NBR.co.nz) -

Judge Peter Griffin said:

The standard of entries was very high.

The use of technology displayed in the team reports put together was impressive and points to a new way of covering major news events and the changing role of journalists who are increasingly gathering news footage, sending updates to social networks such as Twitter and Facebook and adding colour and context via blog posts.

The winner Jock Anderson – National Business Review (NBR.co.nz) - produced a story that was the result of shrewd newsgathering and has the mark of a seasoned professional. The story effectively broke news of an important development in a story of national significance, a development that the rest of the media initially missed entirely.

Best Blog

Winner: Kerry Williamson -The Dominion Post.

Judge and blogger Pat Churchill said:

Blogs come in all shapes, sizes and topics so it wasn't easy comparing a political blog with a sports blog with a personal blog.

Some bloggers would have benefited from having a sub go through their postings. Blogging gives opportunity to think and write outside the square. It can be less formal than mainstream journalism, but it should not be regarded as a licence to abandon grammar and syntax.

The winning blog was a captivating read. It was well written. It made me laugh and it made me shed a tear as the writer documented his first nine months as a new father. Congratulations, Daddy Cool – Kerry Williamson from The Dominion Post.

Best Website Coverage of breaking News Story

And the winner is – www.stuff.co.nz – Editor Sinead Boucher – Napier Siege

Judge Sean Plunket said: This was truly a “breaking story” with multiple angles, strands and developments to cover. Stuff's coverage was lightning fast, broad ranging and comprehensive. Rather

than simply getting the basics Stuff drew on the resources of newsrooms and reporters around the country to cover all the bases and stay up to the minute at the scene of the siege. Stuff filed and linked to video, text items and backgrounder pieces to create a fine example of “new” media at its best.

Best Business Website Award

Judge Terry Hall also added an acknowledgement for Outstanding technical website and awarded that to computerworld.

He said computerworld covers little standard news but is a very specialist site and is exceptional.

Of the finalists Terry Hall said it was an extremely close decision, with none of the sites providing the perfect one-stop shop for business news on the days set aside for judging.

“The NBR site possibly points the way to the future in having some content locked for subscriber access.

“But the winner is Businessday. It provided the best and most consistent news output, especially at weekends with regular updates of stories from New Zealand, offshore and global markets.”

Best Website Design

Winner – stuff.co.nz

Judge Julie Starr said: A lot of work has gone into improving the design of each of the websites entered in this category, and there is much to commend among them.

The winner stood out for its clarity and consistency of layout and features across a complex website; its language and design on user information pages; and the way it allows users to customise the website by creating a personalised news ‘category’.

Best Website Multi-Media/Video Presentation

Winner :Mike Scott: Taranaki Daily News

Judge Julie Starr said: There were some terrific stories and well executed videos, slide shows and web pages among the entrants, which is hugely encouraging.

The winner stood out for having achieved usability, storytelling and execution, with flair, and particularly for having given thought to how people would navigate the video, map and related stories.

Best Online News Website

Winner is – stuff.co.nz

Judge Jim Tucker said Stuff scored best on immediacy, access and design, content, overall coverage of news and audience appeal.

NZ Herald scored best on search function (Stuff’s is poor) and opinion.

No great surprise that these two were the only real contenders.

But neither is yet taking full advantage of tools like hyperlinks in stories (there are none), video, audio, slide shows and revolving picture boxes.

Best Sports Website

Judge Bill Ralston said it is difficult to choose between the “Big Three” – Stuff, Herald and TVNZ. All are content rich and provide a highly varied diet for sports fans.

It’s a photo finish but I believe **stuff.co.nz/sport** has it by a nose. An attractive site, it combines breaking news with commentary and feature material, liberally spiced with controversial commentary and analysis. Stuff has the most attractive page layout and might have the edge in navigation, too. I like its fishing section which caters, I suspect, to the single largest participatory sport in the country.

It makes good use of images and, where possible, video to present a website that caters for the diverse interests (and opinions) of all sports fans.

Best Story/Project with Community Involvement

Highly Commended – NZ Herald Surviving the Recession, Video Producer: Steven Orsbourn, Reporter: Edward Gay, Community Editor: Paul Stowes

Judge Lance Wiggs said: There were some great stories and projects but all of them failed at delivering genuine involvement with the audience. A great story or project with audience involvement should have a two way conversation conducted online, and with audience feedback enhancing the story.

This year was a year of getting started, and I am confident that next year we will see tough competition in this category and we will be able to award a winner worthy of the Qantas standard.

Best Website

Judges Julie Starr; Pat Churchill, Bill Ralston and Terry Hall could agree on only one thing, it came down to stuff and the herald sites.

But they were evenly divided and with no clearcut winner both stuff and nzherald are highly commended.

Junior Newspaper reporter

Arts and Entertainment – winner: Tom Fitzsimons , The Dominion Post.

Judges Peter Kitchin and Tim Pankhurst said Tom Fitzsimons’ exclusive on the fallout between film maker Niki Caro and Vintner’s Luck author Elizabeth Knox was a cracker

Business – Finalist and winner Jazial Crossley, National Business Review.

The judges said: Where did all the investors' money go? Crossley tackled property developers in doing her best to find out.

Crime & Justice

Winner: Bronwyn Torrie – Manawatu Standard

The judges said great work by Bronwyn Torrie and the Standard to organise testing of a suspected P-house and aid a family being made sick by the chemicals.

Human Relations

Winner: Vaimoana Tapeleao – NZ Herald

The judges praised the Herald's reflection of its Polynesian community through Vaimoana's coverage of the Tongan ferry disaster and the Samoan tsunami.

Politics

Winner: Joseph Barratt – The Aucklander/Herald on Sunday

The judges said: Joseph Barratt has a keen eye for a story and the determination to tell it. He is a reporter with great promise

General

Winner : Matt Calman – The Dominion Post

The judges said: Matt Calman just got the nod in a keenly contested category with his finely detailed exclusive on a drunken cop's erratic drive home.

Science and Environment

The finalists and winner is Kirsty Johnston – Taranaki Daily News

The judges said: A clear winner for a strong series on dumping of toxic chemicals that forced authorities to act. This is the epitome of good local reporting that will keep people buying newspapers.

Junior Reporter of the Year

Winner: Vaimoana Tapaleao - The New Zealand Herald

The judges said:

The quality of junior entries was encouraging. The standard of reporting is evidence that the press is in good hands.

The judges said: Tapaleao's impressive portfolio would have pushed the seniors hard. Her on the spot reporting in her native Samoa where family were tsunami victims showed true professionalism. Tapaleao was also able to put a human face to the Princess Ashika ferry sinking in Tonga with an extended tribute.

Senior Newspaper Reporter

Business

Winner : Rob Stock – Sunday Star Times

Judges Peter Kitchin and Tim Pankhurst said: Stock was not afraid to tackle big banks and bully boy financial advisors alike in a terrific all round portfolio and knows his way around complex financial documents. He is a business pages asset.

Crime & Justice

Winner : Jared Savage: NZ Herald: Drug ring run from Sky

The verdict: This investigative exclusive lifted the lid on Asian organised crime using Sky City casino as a front.

Human Relations

Winner: Kim Knight – Sunday Star Times

The judges said: This advocacy journalism on behalf of a remarkable young woman struggling to get adequate treatment for her desperately ill father confirmed committed reporters and their editors can make a difference.

Politics

Winner: Vernon Small – The Dominion Post

The judges said: Dr Vernon Small's determined, exclusive reporting forced the deputy Prime Minister to repay \$32,000 in housing allowances, sparked an auditor general's inquiry and altered MPs' approaches to use of taxpayer money.

General

Winner : Phil Kitchin, the Dominion Post

The judges said: Phil Kitchin doggedly pursued Maritime NZ, despite its fleet of expensive lawyers and subsequent court action against The Dominion Post, to detail safety lapses and cover ups.

Science & Environment

Winner: Marty Sharpe – The Dominion Post

The judges said: Marty Sharpe's determination, use of the OIA and the Ombudsman's intervention forced every council nationwide to release details of contaminated sites which had previously been withheld from the public.

Sport

Winner :Rebecca Palmer – The Dominion Post

The judges said: Rebecca Palmer scooped all entrants with an unlikely exclusive on the racing chief's huge purse in the face of denials and threats. This was a standout in a disappointing field with few stories of note outside standard round reporting.

Senior Reporter of the Year

Winner: Jared Savage – The New Zealand Herald

The judges said: Savage emerged from a star line-up with the strongest all round portfolio. His work covered an exclusive on drug dealing and money laundering at the Sky casino; Sir Ed's family suing over papers; the Samoan tsunami and a police probe into ex MP Roger McClay's expenses. Rock solid reporting at its best.

Junior Newspaper Features

Judges Venetia Sherson, Shenagh Gleeson & Phillipa Stevens said:

Overall, the standard was not as high as in previous years. However, the winners and runners-up stood out for their careful attention to detail, originality and creative writing. Their portfolios showed there is real talent among newspapers' rookie feature writers. We would like to see more of it.

Science and Environment

Finalist and winner: Charles Anderson – The Nelson Mail

The judges said: Anderson wove together well two tales of Stephen's Island – the tuatara and the iwi- for a comprehensive and, at times, humorous piece.

Sport

Finalist and winner: Greer McDonald – The Dominion Post

The judges said: McDonald has a lovely turn of phrase and writes with skill and lightness. She captured beautifully the story of this remarkable athlete.

Politics

Finalist and winner: Sean Gillespie – Waiheke Gulf News

The verdict: A portfolio packed with comprehensive coverage of the issues for Waiheke Island in the Auckland Super City proposal. Gillespie is a time-pressed multi-tasking journalist serving his community well.

Human relations

Winner: John Hartevelt – The Press

The judges said: A comprehensive and readable account of the National Standards, which explains the arguments for and against and the issues surrounding the debate.

Arts

Winner: Ben Stanley – Waikato Times

The judges said: A story about grass-roots film making told with considerable skill and obvious enjoyment.

Business

Finalist and winner: Tom Fitzsimons – The Dominion Post

The comments were: Fitzsimons' piece was an excellent idea, well executed and researched and entertainingly written.

Crime & Justice

Winner: John Hartevelt – The Press

The judges said: Hartevelt's reporting of Sophie Elliott's murder and the trial of Clayton Weatherston showed thorough research, plus the ability to get people to talk. The trial was one of the biggest news stories of the year. Hartevelt's contribution to its coverage was impressive.

Junior Newspaper Feature Writer of the Year

Winner: John Hartevelt -The Press

The three wise women said: Hartevelt produced a portfolio of stories that were well-written and researched. His observations were astute and he handled complex details in a mature way.

Senior Newspaper Feature Writer

Judges Venetia Sherson, Shenagh Gleeson & Philippa Stevens were encouraged.

They said the standard of this year's entries was very high suggesting newspapers feature writing is in good heart in New Zealand. The judges were impressed by the entrants' persistence in getting to the nub of issues and the way they confidently told their stories.

Science & Environment

Winner: John McCrone – The Press

Venetia Sherson, Shenagh Gleenson & Philippa Stevens said: The winning story produced clear and compelling reading on a vitally important story. Detailed research was expertly woven into a highly readable piece.

Sport

Winner: Keri Welham - The Dominion Post/Your Weekend

The judges said :The writer transported the reader to India, a world where cricket matters almost as much as religion. She went beyond sport to explore the unlikely close relationship between two different countries united by one passion.

Politics

Winner: Phil Taylor – New Zealand Herald

Meticulous in its detail, this story joined all the dots. Taylor is a writer who obviously thrives on research and paperwork and never overstates his case.

Human Relations

Winner : John McCrone – The Press

The judges said the foreshore and seabed debate is a big and complex issue but it was brought to a manageable level by skilful research and writing. The feature was sensitive, insightful and intelligent.

Arts

Winner : Christopher Moore – The Press

The judges said: Moore brought one of the most significant- but often criticised – international arts events to life for New Zealand readers. A rich and satisfying read, elegantly written.

Business

Winner :Patrick Crewdson – The Dominion Post

Our panel said: The writer went to the source and took his readers with him. His story was balanced and insightful, as befits a good business reporter. It paid particular attention to observation, comment and detail, always relating the material to the New Zealand experience.

Crime & Justice

Winner : Tim Hume – Sunday Star Times

The judges said: A gutsy, revealing and compelling story that engages its readers from start to finish. The story reveals a side of life rarely seen by New Zealanders.

General

Winner : Kim Knight – Sunday Star Times

Venetia Sherson, Shenagh Gleenson & Philippa Stevens said: One of the standouts in the awards. An extraordinary expose, under difficult conditions, which demonstrates the author's tenacity and ability to dig for more detail. Knight writes with clarity and impact on a wide range of subjects. This was the best in an excellent and wide ranging portfolio.

Senior Newspaper Feature Writer

Winner :John McCrone – The Press

The judges said:

Kim Knight: Was a close runner-up. Her story: Our Destructive Ways, which won the General category, was an outstanding piece of journalism demonstrating both strong investigative reporting and elegant writing skills. She writes with passion and compassion. Her readers are well served.

The winner, John McCrone:, has the talent and tenacity to tackle a range of his subjects from boy racers to peak oil. He has taken the time to understand and explain important issues in a thoroughly readable way. Each piece was meticulously researched and the detail stitched seamlessly through the narrative.

Junior Magazine Feature Writer

Finalist and winner – Sarah Robson, Salient.

Judge Karl du Fresne said: There was one clear winner from a disappointingly small field.

Sarah tackles some big, challenging subjects (such as abortion and smacking) and sets out the issues in a clear, methodical way. Her work is almost the antithesis of the classic student journalism model, eschewing stylistic cleverness in favour of old-fashioned information, presented lucidly but without frills.

Senior Magazine Feature Writer

Crime

Winner: Donna Chisholm – North & South

Judges Cate Brett and Rosemary McLeod said: This category produced some strong contenders, but few can rival veteran journalist Donna Chisholm when it comes to dissecting complex and unpopular criminal cases and retelling them with the sort of urgency that insists readers sit up and take notice.

Politics

Winner: Simon Wilson – Metro

The judges said: In the era of the blog, political opinion and comment have never been easier to come by. Serious political journalism, however, is a much rarer commodity. Simon Wilson's meticulous dissection of National-hopeful Melissa Lee's election defeat was a stand-out example, providing insider insights, keen observation and even-handed analysis.

Arts & Entertainment

Winner: Simon Wilson – Metro

Stylish writing, original thought and a foundation of strong reporting transformed Simon Wilson's story of the tug of war for cultural supremacy between Wellington and Auckland from what could have been a tired recitation of an old argument to a lively, informative and entertaining read.

Human Relations

Winner : Amanda Cropp – North & South

The judges' verdict: Amanda Cropp's painstaking and timely inquiry into New Zealand's refugee programme, and the extraordinary hurdles confronting its 'beneficiaries', was a sobering reminder of both the importance and scarcity of true public interest journalism.

Science & Environment

Winner: Donna Chisholm – North & South

The judges said: This tightly contested category produced some of the best examples of stylish colour writing married with expert subject knowledge. Donna Chisholm's story on genetic discoveries relating to IVF children stood out for its effortless explanation of important and complex science, combined with the previously untold follow up story of New Zealand's first test tube baby.

Business

Winner: Rebecca Macfie – New Zealand Listener

The judges said: Rebecca Macfie succeeds in shedding new light on the much traversed topic of what prevents us from translating great science into big business. Macfie has the knack of making complex issues accessible and interesting, rewarding her readers with fresh insights without resorting to jargon and boosterism.

Profile

Winner: Mike White – North & South

Whatever happened to Constable Nigel Hendricks? Journalist Mike White spent enough time walking around in this damaged ex cop's shoes to be able to deliver readers a moving account of how Hendricks has patched his life back together.

Best Magazine Feature Writer

Winner: Simon Wilson - Metro

Cate Brett and Rosemary McLeod said:

These four journalists all distinguished themselves by their willingness to tackle complex and significant stories, and the ability to deliver them with the authority and verve readers expect from long-form analytical journalism.

Picking a winner was not easy. Above all else though, magazine feature writing must have the capacity to entertain, stir and transport readers. In this respect Simon Wilson's portfolio stood out for its versatility, ambition and literary flair.

Student Journalism Award,

Winner: Amanda Fisher, a Massey graduate now with The Dominion Post

Judge Suzanne Carty said: Amanda Fisher entered a portfolio with no weak points, and stories that more experienced journalists would be pleased to have tracked down, researched and written. Fisher shows she has a nose for news and the ability to tell even quite complex stories well.

Suzanne Carty added:

The three whose work was Highly Commended shouldn't feel too disappointed. Each of them entered strong stories across a range of genres, and can be proud of their work.

Russell's piece on families that are victims of crime, Dastgheib's pieces on the turmoil in her home country, Iran, and Dickison's piece on the graduate face of the recession were all stories that demonstrated they have good futures in journalism.

Investigative Journalism.

Winner: Vernon Small – The Dominion Post

Judge James Hollings said: There are numerous definitions of investigative journalism, but most agree it should bring a matter to public attention that is important for them to know, which they would not have found out otherwise.

Judging by the number of strong entries in this section, many journalists are working very hard to do just that, and it was difficult to narrow the field to three.

The winning entry was chosen because it showed curiosity, initiative and tenacity in pursuing a discrepancy in disclosure records to uncover unethical behaviour in the claiming of Ministerial allowances by the Minister of Finance. In terms of impact and relevance to the widest possible audience it was a clear winner.

Newspaper Story of the year

Winner: Martin van Beynen – The Press

Judges Rick Neville, Paul Thompson and Tim Pankhurst said: Martin van Beynen's detailed account of the Bain retrial contained an explosive conclusion – David Bain is guilty.

This story had enormous impact and was widely quoted and discussed.

It is virtually unheard of for a court reporter to publicly disagree with a verdict but van Beynen, who sat through all 58 days of the trial, did just that.

His troubling impressions of an imperfect jury, backed by his forensic dissection of the evidence, were heightened by the sight of some of the jurors rushing to congratulate Bain and his team after the verdict.

Elegantly written, van Beynen's story was a valuable insight into the trial process and will contribute to the fanning of the Bain flames for years to come.

Junior Canon Best Portfolio of Six Pictures

Winner: Blair Ensor - The Marlborough Express

Judges Dave Wethey and Barry Durrant said:

Ensor has an obvious affinity for the rural sector. He provides a window into the life in the outdoors with strong environmental portraiture.

Best Lifestyle Picture

Winner: Blair Ensor – The Marlborough Express

The judges said: With a couple of huntaways in behind, this young rural mother juggles the demands of parenting with those of farming in an obvious choice for best lifestyle picture.

Best Single Picture

Winner: Chris Hillock – Taranaki Daily News

The judges said: Hillock's wide perspective and careful framing adds to this composition to create a powerful, appealing shot.

Best Sports Picture

Winner: Christine Cornege - New Zealand Herald

The judges said: Many readers would react to such an image, almost feeling the brunt of the impending impact.

Best Breaking News Picture

Winner: Natasha Martin – The Timaru Herald

The verdict: Natasha Martin's almost surreal photo of a flood victim with his dog awaiting rescue is a dark image. Crouched on the roof the two are highlighted at night in a dramatic breaking news scene leaving the reader guessing their fate.

Senior Canon Best Portfolio of Six Pictures

Winner: Derek Flynn, The Marlborough Express

Derek Flynn's strong portfolio of photos includes both technical and accomplished compositional qualities. Flynn catches subjects that seem to typify the kiwi attitude of give it a go. This section had a number of very strong portfolios.

Best Lifestyle Picture

Winner: Amos Chapple – The Aucklander/Our Place Publishing

The judges said:

Amos Chapple finds the perfect composition to frame the subject and balances autumn light and tone with a resulting fairybook impact despite what has become of bambi.

Best Single Picture

Winner: David Hallett – The Press

The judges said: Hallett's ability with the long lens in capturing a remarkable split second belies the perseverance of the wildlife photographer.

Best Sports Picture

Winner: Phil Walter – Getty Images

The judges said:

Phil Walter captures the moment the force of a wave envelopes a yacht in a perfectly timed and composed image. This section contained the highest number of outstanding images reflecting the strength of New Zealand's sport photography

Best Breaking News Picture

Winner : Mark Taylor – Waikato Times

Composition, lighting and the captured movement of the downpour add significant depth and mood to this moving image.

Open section Arts

Winner: Kent Blechynden :The Dominion Post

The judges said: Blechynden's skill in seeing images and the ability to technically capture them in unusual ways creates a dynamic selection of different, powerful work.

Environment

Winner: Darryl Torckler: Freelance

Torckler uses technique and obvious experience to create images of extraordinary clarity and beauty.

Portrait

Winner: Mark Taylor – Waikato Times

The carefully documented story involves the reader in the patient's daily life both prior and after surgery

Object

Winner: Amos Chapple – The Aucklander/Our Place Publishing

The judges said: Chapple controls perspective, using height and lens selection to create images with impact. Light and tonal range are manipulated for effect in this portfolio of strong images.

Fashion

Winner: Babiche Martens – NZ Herald

Colour, selective definition and bold simple compositions make these images work.

Sport

Winner: Peter Drury – Waikato Times

Drury creates powerful picture opportunities from situations where many would not lift a camera.

Print Industry Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Tony Reid

Community Newspaper of the Year

Winner: The Wellingtonian

Judge Mike Fletcher said: The Wellingtonian won – by a mark from second-equal The Aucklander and Mountain Scene – because of its stronger community leadership.

The editor, Joseph Romanos, reports readership bucked a trend for community newspapers and increased by 17,000 in the year ended December 2009. It is easy to see why. Readers support quality journalism.

Newspaper of the Year (up to 30,000 circulation)

Winner: Hawke's Bay Today.

Judge Jim Tully said Our provincial dailies have a clear focus on reflecting the diverse interests and aspirations of the communities they serve.

The finalists all demonstrated that they consistently serve their communities well and seek to engage their readers in a variety of ways: by providing comprehensive coverage of high-impact stories; by initiating campaigns; and by fostering interaction primarily through their websites.

The editorial team at Hawke's Bay Today rose splendidly to the challenge of reporting the siege of Jan Molenaar. It did a superb job under pressure each day producing a compelling package of words, photographs and graphics.

Newspaper of the Year (over 30,000 circulation).

Winner : The New Zealand Herald.

Judge Jim Tully said: The entries in this category confirm that New Zealand is well-served by its metropolitan dailies, both in their traditional format and online, as they strive to improve content and design to add value to their readers. This is an age for innovators not Luddites and there is evidence aplenty of ongoing review and change.

However, there has to be a point of difference and as we are in the business of news the award must go to the newspaper with the most proficient news coverage in the four editions submitted.

Auckland is the largest Polynesian city in the world so when the Pacific tsunami devastated Samoa, the New Zealand Herald was responding to an international event of major significance to many readers linked to the island nation through family, kinship, trade and tourism.

The comprehensive coverage that followed was the product of a well-organised and well-resourced news team in Auckland and Samoa that told the story of the disaster in very human terms, enhanced by strong images and informative graphics.

Weekly Newspaper of the Year

Winner: Herald on Sunday

Judge Jim Tully said:

The three finalists are all substantial newspapers with strong news teams, including sports, that regularly produce exclusive investigative reports that can set the news agenda for the next week. Different in tone and format, they all consistently offer a damned good read. This was the most difficult category to judge.

The Herald on Sunday is always lively, brash and demanding to be noticed but it also delivers significant scoops across a broad spectrum of news and fresh angles on stories already reported in daily media

From those three winners – Hawke's Bay Today, The New Zealand Herald, Herald on Sunday, we select the Newspaper of the Year.

Jim Tully said:

The three category winners each serve their very different audiences in very different ways. Their winning portfolios reflected the significantly diverse editorial context in which each successfully operates. I believe the overall winner must be the newspaper that demonstrated in its selection of four editions that it could consistently break strong news stories rather than responding, albeit superbly, to newsworthy events.

Qantas Newspaper of the Year

Winner: Herald on Sunday.

Wolfson Fellowship to Cambridge University.

Winner : Pamela Stirling - NZListener.