

PRESS RELEASE  
21 October 2011



## UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA **MEDIA PEACE AWARDS 2011**

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10pm, 21 October 2011

### **HAT-TRICK TO JOURNALIST IN UN PEACE AWARDS**

Triple awards to West Australian journalist Steve Pennells and six prizes to SBS were a feature of this year's Media Peace Awards, presented tonight in Melbourne by the United Nations Association of Australia, Victoria Division. **Complete list of winners attached.**

To win the Best Print News Award Pennells' article 'The Malaysian Deal' in the *West Australian*, put a human face on a bitter political debate. Journeying to Kenya for another story, Pennells described in harrowing terms the situation in Dadaab, home to three refugee camps and also highlighted how individuals and society could contribute. His Dadaab coverage won both the Best Print Feature and Best Photojournalism Awards.

The ground-breaking series by Cordell Jigsaw Productions and SBS, 'Go Back to Where You Came From', won two awards, the Best TV Documentary and Promotion of Multicultural Issues Awards. Using the reality TV format, the series brought a fresh approach to a topic that dominates political discussion in the Australian community. A confronting program, it required participants and viewers to replace preconceived views about refugees and asylum seekers with observed experience.

SBS took out the award for TV News with an outstanding and courageous report by Brian Thomson and team who examined the political stalemate in Papua New Guinea, an important subject in a now little considered but close regional neighbour. The TV Current Affairs Award was won by Yaara Bou-Melhem, of *SBS TV Dateline* with her series 'Struggle for Freedom'. This series was an outstanding contribution to raising awareness about the struggle for human rights in the Middle East. While SBS World News Radio won its category for a report on aboriginal deaths in custody over the last 20 years since the Royal Commission.

'www.RwandanStories.org' won the Best Online Award, impressing the judges with its exemplary use of the medium, educational and interactive, it placed the Rwandan genocide into both historical and contemporary contexts. Daybreak films' 'Murundak – Songs of Freedom' received the Promotion of Aboriginal Reconciliation Award due to its power to communicate a strong reconciliation message to all ages and its exploration of the achievements and resilience of the world's oldest living culture.

Winner of the Older Person Award, 'Work Later On' by ABC TV Compass, tackled the issue of older people in the workplace and seniors' feelings that the human potential and resources of their generation were being wasted. 'Dangerous Territory' by ABC Four Corners won the Children's Rights and Issues Award, highlighting the major crisis for children in the Northern Territory and around Australia with a particular emphasis on the issues facing the child protection system.

Network Ten won the Women's Rights and Issues Award with 'Skype Scandal' which effectively stimulated public awareness about the treatment of women in the armed forces and was responsible for instigating significant changes contributing to greater equality for women in the military.

The national Media Peace Awards were established in 1978 to promote understanding and awareness in our society by recognising media efforts to stimulate public debate about humanitarian and social justice issues and promote peace through conflict resolution, tolerance and understanding.

**For further information please contact:**

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## WINNERS – Major Award Categories

### PRINT NEWS

- Steve Pennells, *The West Australian* - 'The Malaysian Deal'

### PRINT FEATURE

- Steve Pennells, *The West Australian* - 'Dadaab'

### TV NEWS (Sponsored by SBS)

- Brian Thomson, *SBS TV News* - 'Unfinished Business'

### TV CURRENT AFFAIRS (Sponsored by SBS)

- Yaara Bou-Melhem, *SBS TV Dateline* - 'Series: Struggle for Freedom'

### TV DOCUMENTARY (Sponsored by SBS)

- Cordell Jigsaw Productions for SBS - 'Go Back to Where You Came From'

### RADIO

- Sacha Payne, Stefan Armbruster, Ron Sutton, Jennifer Curtis, Karen Ashford, Greg Dyett, Michelle Lovegrove and Lindsey Arkley, *SBS World News Australia Radio* - 'Two Decades, Too Little, Too Late for Many: What became of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody?'

### PHOTOJOURNALISM

- Steve Pennells, *The West Australian* - 'Dadaab'

### ONLINE

- David Fullerton, John Steward and Sally Morgan, *Vanishing Point* - '[www.rwandanstories.org](http://www.rwandanstories.org)'
- **Special Commendation:** Matt Smith, John-Paul Marin, Nick Doherty, John MacFarlane and John Connell, *SBS Online and Indian Ocean Productions* - 'Africa to Australia'

## WINNERS – Special Award Categories

### PROMOTION OF ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION

(Sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)

- Natasha Gadd, Rhys Graham, Philippa Campey and Sarah Bond, *Daybreak Films* - 'Murundak - Songs of Freedom'
- **Special Commendation:** Mary Gearin, Vince Tucci, Jonathon Lee and Greg Field, *ABC Television* - 'A Walk to Remember'

### PROMOTION OF POSITIVE IMAGES OF THE OLDER PERSON

- Sharon Connolly, Kim Akhurst, Jeannine Baker and Meredith Hopes, *ABC TV* - 'Work Later On'

### INCREASING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ISSUES

(Sponsored by the Office of Women's Policy)

- Matt Moran and Hugh Riminton, *Network Ten* - 'Skype Scandal'

### INCREASING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND ISSUES

(Sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development)

- Quentin McDermott, Deborah Masters, Karen Michelmore, Kate Wild and Shaun Hoyt, *ABC* - 'Dangerous Territory'

### PROMOTION OF MULTICULTURAL ISSUES

(Sponsored by the Australian Multicultural Foundation)

- Cordell Jigsaw Productions for SBS - 'Go Back To Where You Came From'
- **Special Commendation:** Dan Fill, Frank Verheggen and Chris Sullivan, *Chocolate Liberation Front* commissioned by SBS Online - 'Asylum: Exit Australia'