



# media release

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

## FOUR CORNERS WINS GOLD WALKLEY

The ABC has won journalism's highest accolade, the Gold Walkley. It was one of nine awards the ABC picked up last night at the 56th Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism.

*Four Corners* team, Sarah Ferguson, Michael Doyle and Anne Worthington won the Gold Walkley award for 'A bloody business,' an exposé of the cruelty inflicted on Australian cattle exported to the slaughterhouses of Indonesia. The report also won the best 'TV current affairs, feature or special (more than 20 minutes)' award.

[http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/special\\_edds/20110530/cattle/](http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/special_edds/20110530/cattle/)

In a moving tribute, Paul Lockyer was awarded the specialist award for Journalistic Leadership, recognising his outstanding career spanning more than 40 years in which he covered some of the biggest stories at home and abroad for television and radio.

ABC News online's investigative unit, Suzanne Smith, Ed Giles and Eleanor Bell took out the 'Best online journalism' award for their feature, 'Beating the odds', which went inside the Sydney suburb of Mount Druitt after the disappearance of school girl Kiesha Abrahams to look at what was being done to support at-risk children. This multi-media report also won a UN Media Peace prize last year. <http://abc.net.au/news/specials/beating-the-odds/>

Caro Meldrum-Hanna won the best 'Sports journalism' category for her 7.30 story, 'Harness racing under scrutiny', exposing the biggest scam in the 100-year history of harness racing in NSW. <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2011/s3300470.htm>

ABC North Asia correspondent Mark Willacy received the Walkley Award for 'Radio news and current affairs reporting' for his coverage of the devastating tsunami that hit the Japanese fishing community of Rikuzentakata in March of this year. Mark was also a finalist in two other categories for his reporting on the Japan earthquake.

Northern Territory journalist Katrina Bolton won the 'Radio feature, documentary or broadcast special' category for her ABC Radio current affairs documentary 'Drink, death and dollars', which put the spotlight on businesses who cater to Indigenous drinkers in central Australia.

*Hungry Beast's*, Monique Schafter won best 'Television current affairs (less than 20 minutes)' for her report, 'Trapped in your own body', which challenged the way people think about disability. The story was told by a stroke victim who was unable to move or speak, but whose brain was still fully functioning. <http://hungrybeast.abc.net.au/stories/trapped-your-own-body>

*Lateline* presenter Tony Jones once again took out the 'Broadcast Interviewing' award. This is the third time Tony has won in this category. This year he was recognised for interviews with Christopher Hitchens, Malcolm Turnbull and Chris Bowen.

Managing Director Mark Scott said: "Overall it is a great result for the ABC, winning awards across all our platforms TV, radio and online."

"I am delighted that in its 50th year *Four Corners* is still the landmark program for investigative journalism.

"In a tough year for the ABC, it was moving to see our colleagues acknowledged and for Paul Lockyer to be recognized for his outstanding journalistic leadership."

#### FULL LIST OF ABC 2011 WALKLEY AWARDS

##### GOLD WALKLEY

*Four Corners* – Sarah Ferguson, Michael Doyle and Anne Worthington 'A bloody business'

##### JOURNALISTIC LEADERSHIP

Paul Lockyer

##### RADIO: NEWS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS REPORTING

Mark Willacy – PM – 'Rikuzentakata tsunami'

##### RADIO: FEATURE, DOCUMENTARY OR BROADCAST SPECIAL

Katrina Bolton – ABC Radio Current Affairs Documentaries – 'Drink, death and dollars'

##### TELEVISION: CURRENT AFFAIRS REPORTING (LESS THAN 20 MINUTES)

Monique Schafter – *Hungry Beast* – 'Trapped in your own body'

##### TELEVISION: CURRENT AFFAIRS, FEATURE, DOCUMENTARY OR SPECIAL (MORE THAN 20 MINUTES)

Sarah Ferguson, Michael Doyle and Anne Worthington – *Four Corners* – 'A bloody business'

##### ONLINE: BEST ONLINE JOURNALISM

Eleanor Bell, Ed Giles, Suzanne Smith, 'Beating the odds'

##### ALL MEDIA: SPORT JOURNALISM

Caro Meldrum-Hanna – 7.30 – 'Harness racing under scrutiny'

##### ALL MEDIA: BROADCAST INTERVIEWING

Tony Jones

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