

## 1999-2000 Australian Press Council Prize Results

The Australian Press Council has announced results of its 1999-2000 essay Prize. The Prize is awarded for the best essay submitted on a set topic.

In 1999-2000 the topic was:

*Principle 5 of the Council's Statement of Principles states in part that newspapers should disclose "any commercial or other interest which might be construed as influencing the publication's presentation of news or opinion". In the light of the recent revelations of the possibility that commercial interests may have influenced some radio personalities, to what extent is the press obliged to reveal any conflict of interest which may be involved in the reporting of news and the publication of opinions.?*

Entries were invited from tertiary students (as at 30 June 2000), who had a 2,500 word limit

There were 40 entries in the essay prize.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges, Professor Clem Lloyd of the University of Wollongong; John Morgan, former editor in chief of the Herald and Weekly Times and an Editor Member of the Australian Press Council; and Jack R Herman, the Council's Executive Secretary.

The first prize of \$2000 was awarded to Jacob Aldridge of the University of Queensland. The judges also awarded Honourable Mentions to three other entrants: Michael Malouf, of Western Australia; Nick McKenzie, from Melbourne; and Emilia Verzeletti, of Brisbane. Biographical information provided by each of the winners is published on page 9.

The comments of John Morgan, one of the judges, are published on pages 10 and 11.

## 2000-2001 Australian Press Council Prize

The Australian Press Council has announced the terms of entry for its 2001 award. The Prize is awarded for the best essay submitted on a set topic.

In 2000 the topic is:

*Principle 5 states, in part, that publications should make fact and opinion clearly distinguishable. To what extent is such a clear division between fact and opinion possible and desirable?*

Following the remarks made by the judges for the 1998-99 Prize and a decision taken by the Council, entries are invited from Tertiary students (as at 30 June 2001) only. This year, there will be no Prize offered in a secondary schools' section. The word limit for essays is 2,500 words.

Winners will be selected by a panel of three judges and the prizes of up to \$2,000 will be awarded.

The final date for receipt of submissions is 30 June 2001.

At the request of the previous judges, the Council specifies that it would prefer entries that demonstrate some effort to research the topic and argue it seriously. It also requests that entries be typescript and double-spaced. No formal entry form is required.

The Australian Press Council reserves the right not to award a prize/s.

ENQUIRIES:

The Executive Secretary  
The Australian Press Council  
303/149 Castlereagh Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9261 1930 or (1800) 02 5712 Fax: (02) 9267 6826

email: [info@presscouncil.org.au](mailto:info@presscouncil.org.au)

For the guidance of entrants, the Council has published on its website details of the Prize and copies of the comments made by the judges in 1994 and 1998. A different approach can be seen in the judge's comments on the 2000 Prize, also posted on the site. The information on the Prize is located at:

<http://www.presscouncil.org.au/pcsite/prize.html>

## 2000 Press Council Prize Winners

### FIRST PLACE:

### Jacob Aldridge



Jacob was born in Brisbane but moved to Murwillumbah, northern New South Wales, with his family in 1988. He returned to Brisbane in 1995 as a boarder at Marist College Ashgrove. When he graduated from Marist in 1998 was awarded an Overall Position 1, which placed him in the top 2% of his graduating year.

Jacob is now studying a parallel Bachelor of Journalism/Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Queensland. He has already had an article published in the Department newspaper, The Queensland Independent, and was commissioned to write the sixty year history for the Dalby Rotary Club in 1999.

### HIGHLY COMMENDED:

### Nick McKenzie

Nick McKenzie is nineteen years old and is completing his second year of Journalism at RMIT. He hopes to complete an additional post-graduate in industrial relations/politics after he has finished his course.

His ambitions are fuelled with idealistic endeavour that he hopes will never leave him. He aims to become a foreign correspondent or industrial relations reporter and always maintain his independence and subjectivity, even when working for business-oriented newspapers.

Other than that, he is a keen surfer and has also travelled throughout South East Asia for several months. He plans to return later this year if he doesn't succeed in getting a cadetship at a newspaper.

Though he might add, three years of chasing ambulances and going to court seems like a rather daunting prospect, nevertheless he does recognise that it is a long way to the top in journalism and is prepared to begin that ascent.

### Michael Malouf

Michael Malouf, 43, completed a BA last year at the University of Western Australia with a double major in English and Ancient History. He was accepted into a postgraduate year in Journalism at Murdoch University which will finish by the end of November 2000.

In the past Michael has mainly held clerical and mainframe computer operations positions in Australia, Scotland, New Zealand and South Africa. He "burnt one remaining bridge rather spectacularly in Sydney 8 years ago", fled to Perth, and he never looked back.

Michael describes himself as a "media hypocrite" because he loves scouring broadsheets from cover to cover, while being cynical about the process that produces them. His course placement in second semester was two weeks of a political internship with the Australian Democrats where he wrote press releases and letters to the editor.

Michael says that his long-term aim is to win Lotto and never work again.

### Emilia Verzeletti

Emilia Verzeletti completed her Graduate Diploma in Journalism with the University of Queensland in June 2000 and is now researching her Doctorate of Philosophy on international media.

The focus of her PhD research is on how the media can influence the outcomes of separatist conflicts, East Timor being a case-in-point.

Emilia studied for her GradDip externally from her base in Singapore where she also works part-time as Communications Manager for The Australian Chamber of Commerce, and looks after her 4-month old baby. Emilia competed her Bachelor of Arts with Deakin University in 1997 whilst serving as an officer in the Australian Army.