



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Advertising :: Photographic :: Journalism :: Newspapers

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY PRESS ASSOCIATION INC.
E: admin@qcpa.com.au :: Secretary Phone 0408 165 509



Congratulations ...

Despite the challenges of Covid-19 impacting at the end of March when entries were due, this year's Excellence Awards again highlighted the tremendous talent which abounds in regional publishing across Queensland.

We received over 400 entries across the Advertising, Photography, Journalism and Newspaper categories.

The judges were united in compliments about the professionalism and vital contribution our publications are making to our regional communities.

It was unfortunate we were unable to fully celebrate our achievements with our highlight presentation night dinner this year, but we have been able to at least recognise the success of our teams and individual winners from the Southern Regions on Queensland, with a presentation luncheon at Toowoomba on Friday, November 6.

Congratulations to all who entered, and deserving acknowledgment for the winners, place-getters and highly commended recipients.

Maybe we can have an extra celebration at next year's Awards dinner scheduled to be held at Mercure Brisbane Hotel on May 28.

And these Awards herald in a new era for QCPA – with almost 20 new print publications launched recently, and our Association expanding its Online Publisher Membership, providing us over 60 members covering the State.

Kind regards,

Phill Le Petit
President

**2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS
PRESENTATION LUNCHEON**

After having cancelled two attempts to hold our annual conference and Awards Presentation Dinner, we managed to recognise at least a majority of our winners from Southern Queensland, at a presentation luncheon at Toowoomba on Friday, November 6.

We have over 40 attending, representing current and new newspaper publisher members and also our new Digital Publisher members.

A good number of the Awards went to Members in northern regions of the State, and unfortunately they could not be represented at the luncheon. Their award trophies and certificates are being posted.

A separate Excellence Awards summary Word document "2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS RESULTS", with all the Judges' comments, is also available.

Further information is available from the QCPA Secretary Greg Watson.

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY PRESS ASSOCIATION INC

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2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Advertising Awards

JUDGE: RON REEDMAN

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Advertising Judge : Ron Reedman

Ron Reedman has been judging the QCPA Advertising Awards for 13 years. Before retiring Ron enjoyed a comprehensive newspaper career - starting as a copy holder and then apprentice at Bundaberg News-Mail before rising through the sales team to Advertising Manager.

He served as sales manager and as General Manager at Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Redland Times and Bayside Bulletin, Tweed Daily News and its stable of Gold Coast "frees", before joining Fairfax's Hunter and Central Coast groups.

Ron was appointed Manager of The Newcastle Post group of newspapers, and then Sales & Marketing Manager of The Newcastle Herald, leading the change from broadsheet to tabloid format.

Ron says that as long as that paper is seen to be a part of its' community there will always be a place for a vibrant local newspaper!



Ron pictured with some of his newspaper career memorabilia

QCPA extends special thanks to Ron for his diligence, enthusiasm and professional contribution to the success of our Awards each year. It is greatly appreciated.

Judge's General comments:

Covid-19 certainly impacted the number of entries across the Advertising categories, especially from the smaller member newspapers, obviously struggling with the sudden downturn in local businesses at the end of March when the entries were being sorted.

However, the standard of entries certainly reflected the major improvements we have continued to see through the Awards over the past decade or so.

There were some notable entries among the special publications – absolutely fantastic products brimming with revenue. And great to see more campaigns, that provide ongoing benefit for both the advertiser and the newspaper.



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BEST LOCALLY PRODUCED ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN



Judge's comments: Series of themed advertisements – in regular advertising campaigns - always bring the best results by far. A strong field of classy advertisements.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:
BURDEKIN ADVOCATE
Landmark Race Day

EQUAL THIRD PLACE:
GATTON STAR
Superior Irrigation Services
A series of bright full and half page product advertisements.

EQUAL THIRD PLACE:
NOOSA TODAY
Coastal Skin & Laser
Eye catching series accompanied by commercial editorial.

SECOND PLACE:
CHINCHILLA NEWS
White Lotus Hair & Beauty
A series of 13 great provocative ads engaging potential customers.

How Does Your Garden Grow?
Come in today and see our new range of products
Vegepod
Rocky Point
BUSINESS IN FOCUS
SUMMER BODIES ARE MADE HERE
SUMMER BODIES ARE MADE IN WINTER
NEXT GENERATION BODY CONTOURING IS HERE...
✓ 25 minute laser treatment
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CONQUER THAT HILL
IT'S TIME TO JOIN US
JOIN FOR AS LITTLE AS \$19 A WEEK
CALL 5463 2737 OR ONLINE AT BOONAHHEALTHHUB.COM.AU
BOONAH HEALTH HUB
WE'RE NOT JUST A GYM, WE'RE A HEALTH HUB

First Place::
FASSIFERN GUARDIAN
Boonah Health Hub
Catching headlines and photos gave this 6-ad series the edge.

Judge's comments: Some very attractive adverts with lots and lots of information, but not "selling" anything, There needs to be more headlines highlighting benefits, calling for action, and posing questions that engage the reader and potential customer.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

Oakey Champion

Bi-Rite Black Friday Sale

Fassifern Guardian

Boonah Health Hub

Equal Third Place:

Burdekin Advocate-

Family Fun Day

Another eye-catcher with plenty of interesting and engaging copy matter

Equal Third Place:

Gatton Star

Lockyer Wreckers & Tyre Service

Super bright advertisement which would not have been missed by readers

Second Place:

Burdekin Advocate-

Farmers United "A plea to all Queenslanders"

Great image and direct headline with a letter calling for support – would have certainly got the message through.



First Place::
GATTON STAR
Old Fernvale Bakery "The Buns are Back"
Strong colours and illustrations with an appealing direct message to buy their hot cross buns.

Judge's comments: There were strong shopping promotions supporting local business, along with events and festivals among many quality entries, reflecting the outstanding support country newspapers provide to their communities.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

HERBERT RIVER EXPRESS

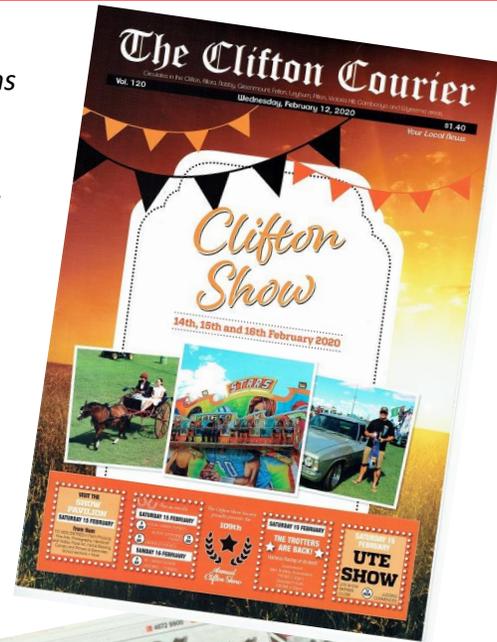
Count Down to Christmas

BURDEKIN ADVOCATE

Buy Local First Shopping Spree

GATTON STAR

Be Town Proud – Support Local



THIRD PLACE:

CLIFTON COURIER

The Clifton Show

A morale boosting effort for the community to “save” the annual show impacted by a crippling drought and the onset of Covid-19.

SECOND PLACE:

CHINCHILLA NEWS

Chinchilla’s One Long Table Food Festival

Ongoing promotion with editorial and community advertisements leading up to Chinchilla’s main street annual food festival.



First Place:

**BURDEKIN
ADVOCATE**

“Are you Disaster Ready?”

A very informative promotion highlighting awareness and preparation for the coming cyclone season.



Judge's comments: Excellent quality entries this year, but down on numbers. Always love headlines asking questions, like Clifton Courier and Oakey Champions shared "Guess What We Do? Some other good entries shared across papers, with majority promoting advertising. Pleased to see advertisements the size you want your customers to take.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

GATTON STAR

"Is your business reaching the farmer of the future?"

Another strong question targeting business promotion in "The Valley Farmer" magazine,

THIRD PLACE:

BOWEN INDEPENDENT

"Are you still open for Business?"

Great question as Covid-19 loomed – promoting the Independent's support services to business.

SECOND PLACE:

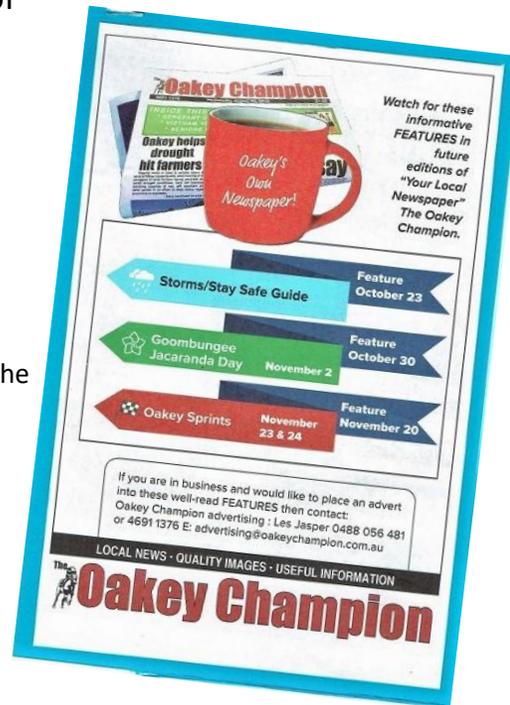
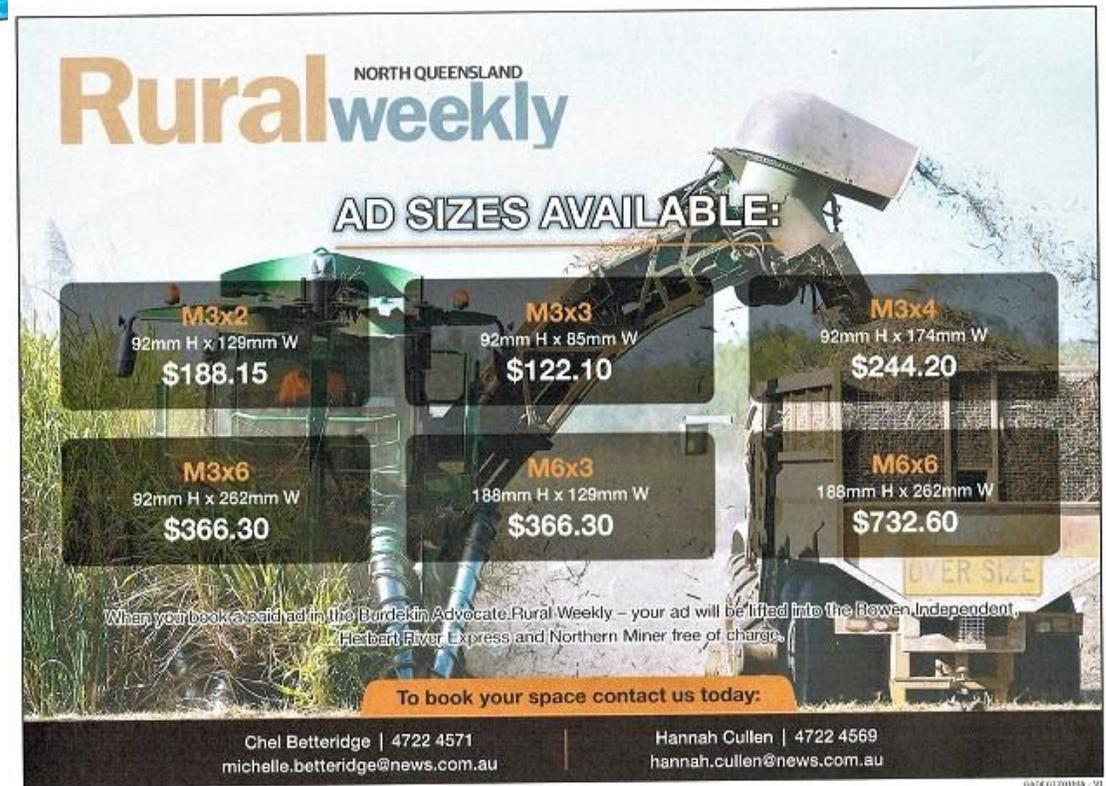
Oakey Champion

Upcoming Features

A neat and clever advert highlighting upcoming special features



First Place:
BURDEKIN ADVOCATE
North Qld Rural Weekly advertising
Don't often see advertising pricing advertised, but this one was clever and certainly put the options out there. Should see more self-promotion and advertise price – just like we encourage our clients to do.

Rural Weekly NORTH QUEENSLAND

AD SIZES AVAILABLE:

M3x2 92mm H x 129mm W \$188.15	M3x3 92mm H x 85mm W \$122.10	M3x4 92mm H x 174mm W \$244.20
M3x6 92mm H x 262mm W \$366.30	M6x3 188mm H x 129mm W \$366.30	M6x6 188mm H x 262mm W \$732.60

When you book a paid ad in the Burdekin Advocate, Rural Weekly – your ad will be lifted into the Bowen Independent, Herbert River Express and Northern Miner free of charge.

To book your space contact us today:

Chel Betteridge | 4722 4571
michelle.betteridge@news.com.au

Hannah Cullen | 4722 4569
hannah.cullen@news.com.au

2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BEST COMMERCIAL FEATURE

Published more than once a year



Judge's comments: One of the outstanding categories again this year, with quality front and centre! Strong advertising content highlighted the key "commercial" aspect in these regular features – mostly pre-printed inserts. And the excellent editorial ensures they form an integral part of the regular content of country newspapers and are no doubt well read by their target audience. The Maranoa Style (Roma) and Downs Style (Dalby) high quality lifestyle magazines deserve a special mention.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:
HERBERT RIVER EXPRESS – "Grassroots" quarterly Primary Schools feature.

THIRD PLACE:
CHINCHILLA NEWS
Ultimate Motoring Off Road & Accessory Guide
A high quality 48 page quarterly packed with advertising from regional businesses. Targeted editorial provided a complete package.

SECOND PLACE:
GATTON, LOCKYER & BRISBANE VALLEY STAR
Valley Farmer
A six-edition magazine targeting the region's major rural industries with excellent locally-focussed editorial and strong, relevant advertising. No doubt a well read addition to the Gatton Star.



First Place:
CHINCHILLA NEWS
Ultimate Real Estate and Renovators' Guide.
An outstanding high quality renovation guide featuring regional businesses and impressive real estate guide. 40 pages full of great advertising.



Judge's comments: Almost overloaded again this year with 39 entries in this category – fantastic. We don't need any more proof that country newspapers are truly alive and staffed by outstanding professionals. The impressive quality, ingenuity, and strong advertising warms the heart, and the effort of many of our smaller members is worthy of high praise. Gloss wraps, maps, calendars, festivals, anniversaries, Mother's Day, Christmas, schools, directories, annual shows were among the vast range of topics. And tourist publications certainly fitted the "commercial" criteria, but deservedly belong in Special Pubs.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

WESTERN STAR, ROMA –
Maranoa Renovators Guide

DALBY HERALD AND WESTERN STAR
Caricature Calendars

BOWEN INDEPENDENT
The Whitsundays

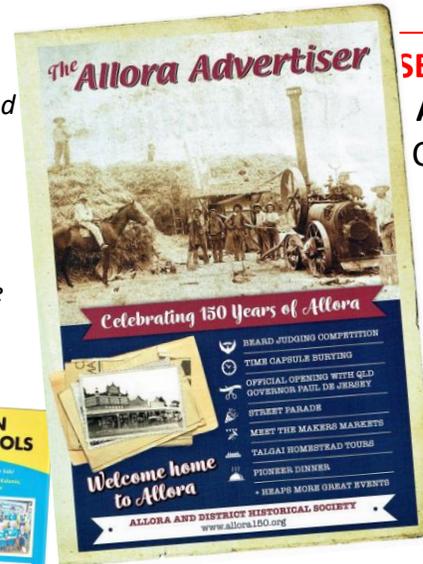
EQUAL THIRD PLACE:

The great range of diverse products across the State.

BUDEKIN ADVOCATE
Burdekin Small Schools

Oakey Champion
Christmas Wishes wrap

CHINCHILLA NEWS
"Making the Grade 2019"



SECOND PLACE

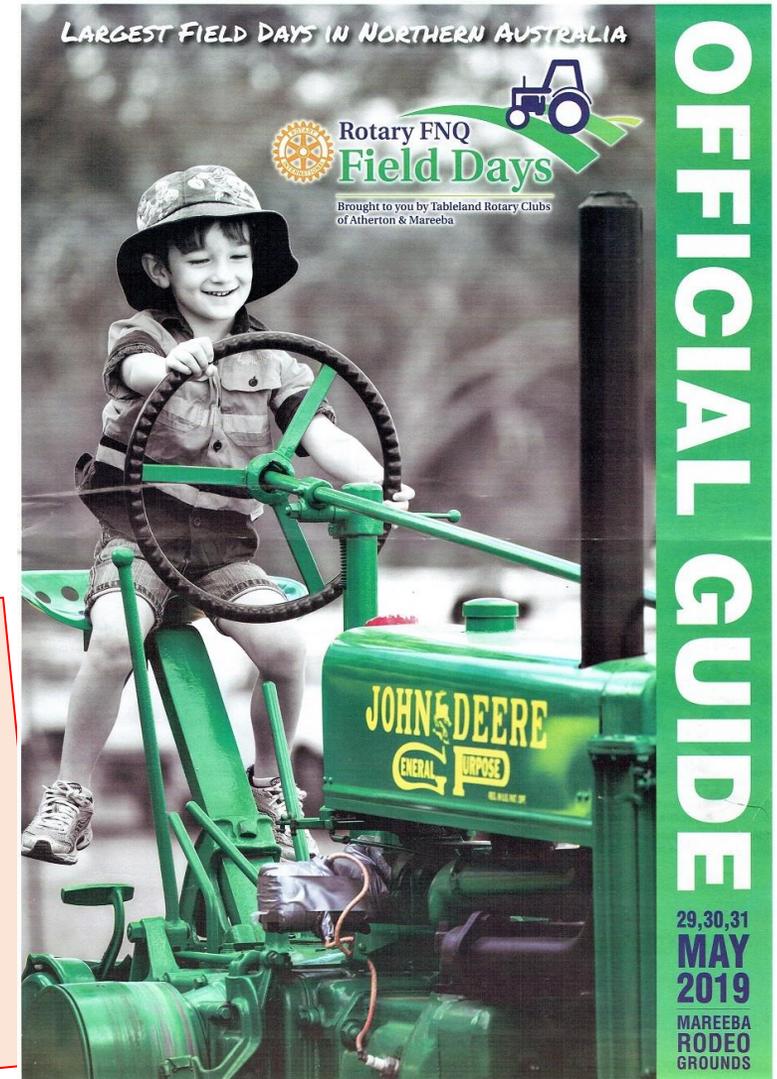
ALLORA ADVERTISER
Celebrating 150 Years
of Allora

A tremendous effort from one of our smallest members- a 28 page gloss wrap feature providing a snapshot of the 150th celebrations, events and history of Allora.

First Place:

**THE EXPRESS,
MAREEBA**
Far North Queensland
Field Days

A very comprehensive guide to the exhibitors and events at the largest field days in Northern Australia.



Judge’s comments: This is a category where real class shines in the added content of a newspaper’s offering to its readers. The diverse range from tourism, lifestyle magazines, festivals, and dominating once again – education! Most notable has been the increase in quality and the more focussed local editorial content.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

FASSIFERN GUARDIAN

Boonah High Formal Magazine 2019

EQUAL THIRD PLACE:

DALBY HERALD

“2020 Educational Options”

A glossy 16-page packed with information on 17 school and college options across the Region.

GATTON STAR

“Explore” – A guide to Lockyer Valley and Somerset

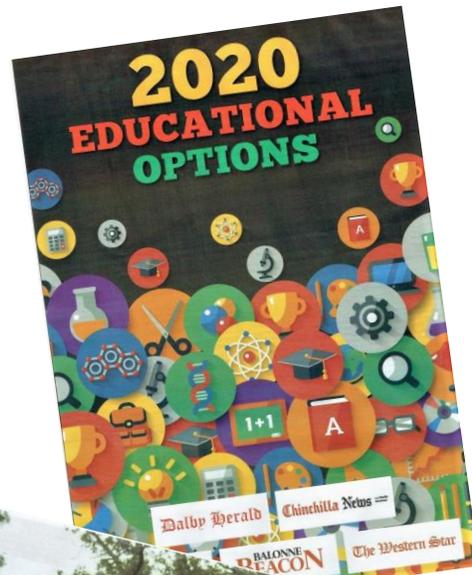
A very stylish, smart layout, great advertisements and appealing editorial.

SECOND PLACE:

WHITSUNDAY TIMES

“Airlie Comes Alive”

A 24 page gloss A4 guide to local events during the Great Barrier Reef Festival, with comprehensive editorial and tremendous advertising



First Place:

GATTON

STAR

“My School
2020”

Another education winner, highlighting over 20 district schools and colleges in an easy to read, snappy format supported by advertising.



Judge's comments: The best quality Special Publications we have seen in these Awards- absolutely first class. The top two were standouts, whilst another 6 or 7 would have been among the Awards in previous years. So we added five Highly Commended, which were a toss-up – including the magnificent 124 “perennial” Breeders Way, a brilliant 88 page Wedding Planner book, those outstanding caricature calendars and Sunshine Coast Kids Today. And there was the classy Western Travel Guide – everyone deserves an award.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

CHINCHILLA NEWS

Western Travel Guide

NOOSA TODAY

Sunshine Coast Kids Today

DALBY HERALD

SE Qld Wedding Planner

CHINCHILLA NEWS

The Breeders Way

THE WESTERN STAR

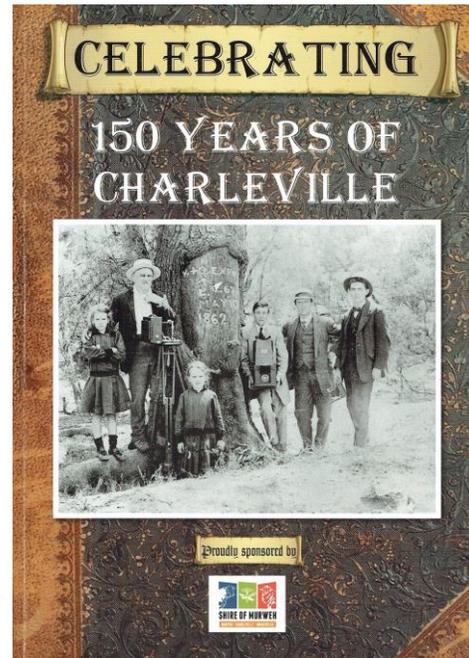
2020 Caricature Calendar

THIRD PLACE:

THE EXPRESS, MAREEBA

“Mareeba – Gateway to the Region”

Mareeba Chamber of Commerce economic snapshot and report.



SECOND PLACE: WESTERN TIMES, CHARLEVILLE

“150 Years of Charleville”

A magnificent 100-page keepsake documenting the colourful and fascinating history of Charleville, from the first explorers, the 1866 drought which led to a settlement, the 3000 square miles Gowrie Station, the shearer's strike, the War effort, the hotel fires and the floods, the Bilby festival. And much more. Fabulous photos with precious memories. An absolutely outstanding effort.



First Place:

CHINCHILLA NEWS

South West Queensland Farming Guide 2019

This entry is the best rural publication we have seen from regional Queensland – if not Australia. 230 high quality pages of expert information on everything from bees to vegetables, cattle to goats. Superbly produced, professional design and strong commercial support from all sectors of agriculture business. A crowning glory for Chinchilla News' dominance in publications over the past decade. .





Photographic Awards

JUDGE: ADAM HOURIGAN

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OUR JUDGE

QCPA has been honoured again this year to have renowned country newspaper photographer Adam Hourigan as judge of the Photography categories.

Adam started with the Daily Examiner at Grafton as a first-year cadet photographer in 1995, and has remained with the paper ever since, with his role expanding to writing, sub-editing, digital producing, and even editing the paper for a short time.

He has won the Northern NSW Prodi Award for Regional Photographer of the Year five times.

In 2014 Adam won the Walkley prize for Regional/Community Photography, and in 2015 the PANPA award for Features Lifestyle Regional award for photography.

He is a member of the Australian Institute of Professional Photography, holding the title of Master with 1 Gold Bar, and he judges both state and international competitions.

A 3 times finalist in categories at the Queensland Professional Photography Award, Adam had the highest scoring portrait print at the Australian Professional Photography Awards in 2016.



Judge's comments: Not a strong section. While lack of equipment is always a problem for smaller papers, lack of opportunity is not. There are good examples of the types of sports that should be covered, but photos are often laboured, poorly exposed or show poor technique. Some photo feature work is entered, but is often very awkwardly posed.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

ALEX TREACY, Central & Nth Burnett Times
"Face Up"

A lovely slice of life that gives an environmental sense of what's going on. The one pad, the coffee are all nice details. Technically could be better, always focus where the action is – which is the bowler not the batter, and watch the tightness of the crop at the bottom – this is environmental so show the environment.



"Face Up"

THIRD PLACE:

JEREMY SOLLARS, Southern Free Times
"In Full Flight"

Probably the best actual action, but let down the size of the crop needed/file quality. Still fulfils what we're looking for of that decisive moment.



In Full Flight

SECOND PLACE:

. DOMINIC ELSOME, Gatton Star
"A Different Perspective"

The best idea of the entries, but a very still moment that kept it out of top spot. Well handled tricky exposure.



A Different Perspective



First Place:
JACK WATERS, Clifton Courier
'Try-umphant'

Great expression. Sharp, and captured a peak moment in the game, even though it's junior. Satisfied the standard the best of any entry in the section.

2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BEST PORTRAIT/COMMUNITY PICTURE



HIGHLY COMMENDED:

ALI KUCHEL, Gatton Star

“All we want for Christmas is rain”

Yes it's a cliché, but it's a well handled cliché. Well handled, eye catching and would make anyone look at what was going on.



All we want for Christmas is rain

Judge's comments: A better section, and should be the bread and butter of our country newspapers. What's missing is actual emotion, everything feels very staged and set up. I want to feel something when I look at these photos, and everyone should push themselves to find that, especially in images entered for awards.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

ALEX TREACY, Central & North Burnett Times

“Clowning around Biggenden”

What a moment! Rewarded for a great bit of spotting. However, the main subject is lost in the crowd, who aren't nearly as interesting. I wonder what this looks like from the other side, as the kids, and his face/act are the shot here.



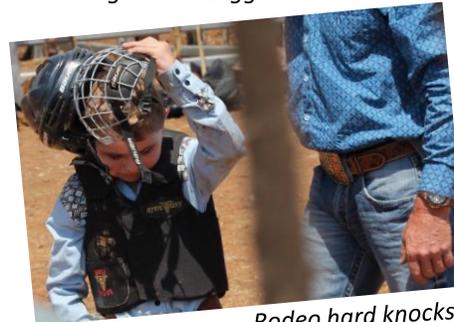
Clowning around Biggenden

THIRD PLACE:

JEREMY SOLLARS, Southern Free Times

“Rodeo Hard Knocks”

Well spotted, though perhaps a little tight, and the line down the middle distracts. Still gets the message across, a real emotion for a little guy.



Rodeo hard knocks

SECOND PLACE:

ALEX TREACY, Central & North Burnett Times

“Orange Festival passenger”

A lovely grab image and an engaging expression from the little boy. Technically could be handled better, the crop on the hand and the light on dad's face, but the photo makes me look and wonder what's going on – and that's all we want!



Orange Festival passenger



First Place: ALI KUCHEL, Gatton Star
“Winter Woolies”

Real genuine expression and quirkiness. Well lit, nicely captured. Simple, but effective.

Judge's comments: Often the hardest section, this has some of the stronger photos in the section. Lots of eye-catching stuff to choose from.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

**ALEX TREACY,
Central & North Burnett Times
"Isis Highway fireball 2"**

Great access again and I love that I have to look what I'm looking at. Great amount of detail and well handled in tricky light.



'Isis Highway fireball

THIRD PLACE:

**ALEX TREACY,
Central & North Burnett Times
"Vehicle Cutout"**

Spot on the timing – I don't think I've ever seen this before. Could be a little tighter, but a good look at something the general public doesn't see.



Vehicle Cutout

SECOND PLACE:

**DOMINIC ELSOME, Gatton Star
"On the edge of the storm"**

Great action on figure in front, but man at back stops it from pushing higher – I don't get the urgency. Still well captured and good energy through the frame.



On the edge of the storm



First Place:

**MONIQUE PRESTON, Whitsunday Times
"Man's foot bitten off in Whitsundays shark attack"**

Great access, perhaps doesn't have the urgency that many of these type of images would typically have, but perhaps that's the story. Good shot of the man looking own and nice to catch the detail of the leg. Great access, and something other media probably wished they had. story. Good shot of the man looking own and nice to catch the detail of the leg. Great access,



Journalistic Awards

JUDGES: BRIAN HURST and PETER READ

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OUR JUDGES

Peter Read

QCPA 2020 Newspaper Journalistic Excellence Awards judge Peter Read retired in 2105 as GM of the PANPA Newspaper of the Year winning Gympie Times. He had five decades as a journalist/editor/GM/area manager and worked in SA, WA, Victoria and then Queensland with a stint in Army PR, Canberra, as a Nasho.

Brian Hurst

Brian Hurst was editor of The Redland Times and the Bayside Bulletin in Redland City for nearly three decades and was president of Queensland Country Press Association between 2011 and 2013. He now works as digital producer for the Regional Division ABC News online.



First Place:

WENDY CREIGHTON Fassifern Guardian

Brian's comment: The Fassifern Guardian is one of the few non-daily newspapers that has maintained the newspaper tradition of an unsigned newspaper editorial to leader. The newspapers tackles issues of local, national and international interest. The Fassifern Guardian's readership is well served by well-argued editorials that provoke thought and discussion

2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR A NEWSPAPER- WEIGHTED



JOINT RUNNER-UP:
BELOUNE BEACON



JOINT RUNNER-UP:
BURDEKIN ADVOCATE



JOINT RUNNERS-UP
Western Star, Balonne Beacon and Burdekin Advocate.
Good examples of local papers connecting with their community. Templating makes it hard to split them



JOINT RUNNER-UP:
WESTERN STAR

FIRST PLACE:
DALBY HERALD
Peter's comments: An impressive story count and good mix of hard and softer news. Good social pics spread with lots of smiley faces. Support for the letters pages reflects their community connection..



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR A NEWSPAPER- OPEN



**THIRD PLACE:
BOWEN
INDEPENDENT**



**SECOND PLACE:
GATTON LOCKYER &
BRISBANE VALLEY STAR**



**FIRST PLACE:
WESTERN STAR
Roma**

Brian's comment: Roma's Western Star newspaper would have been a newspaper that was eagerly anticipated each edition by its readers. It showed strong community leadership, relevant content, with an easily to follow layout. It combined of hard news, coverage of local events and a celebration of its community and its members.

**2020
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

**JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD
FOR AN INDIVIDUAL JOURNALIST**



EQUAL THIRD PLACE:
KATE McCORMACK
Chinchilla News and
South Burnett Times



SECOND PLACE:
DREW CREIGHTON
Fassifern Guardian



WINNER:
JEREMY SOLLARS
Southern Free Times



Brian's comments: Jeremy Sollars demonstrated a persistence to stay with an issue that he and his newspaper believed was important for his community. His stories included a series of stories questioning the local council over its level of secrecy and lack of transparency and a series of stories on the impact of drought on the region and how the community responded, His body of work showed a level of initiative, persistence, depth and attention to detail that his work fulfil all the judging criteria

**EQUAL THIRD
PLACE:**
EMMA ALSOP
Oakey Champion



**2020
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

**JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR
YOUNG JOURNALIST OF YEAR**



RUNNER-UP:
MIKAYLA MAYOH – Burdekin Advocate

EQUAL WINNER:

ELLEN RANSLEY – Western Star, Roma

Brian's comments: Ellen showed initiative in the stories she tackled including a series on mental health and sensitivity, mixed with initiative in interviewing the mother of child who was crushed by a tyre.



EQUAL WINNER:

**ALEX TREACY -
Central & North Burnett Times**

Brian's comments: Alex's body of work demonstrated his willingness to tackle issues that would not always be popular in his local community. As a result he produced strong stories that would not otherwise be told and would have served his readers well.



RUNNER-UP:
MEG GANNON - Dalby Herald



Newspaper Awards

JUDGES: RON REEDMAN, BRIAN HURST and PETER READ

Judge Peter Read commented: Although this has undeniably been an annus horribilis for country newspapers, this year's awards attracted a very pleasing number of entries, with very little separating the entrants.

Layout templates used by many of the entrants also made it very difficult to separate the leading contenders.

A good community needs a strong local paper to "keep the bastards honest" and there is plenty of evidence that most of this year's entrants filled that role. I find it hard to see how this vital role will be filled as we move to digital only platforms and urge the surviving (and newly launched papers) to keep this in mind in what will be another difficult year ahead. It will be disappointing if 30-second news grabs, fake news and less comprehensive journalistic investigative work means that community issues that should have been analysed and comprehensively reported, pass virtually unchallenged.

In what will be a tough economic climate in 2021, with less newsroom resources because of the loss of advertising revenue, the challenge will also be to maintain a good story count.

The good news of recent months has been the birth of a number of impressive new newspapers to fill gaps where areas were left with a digital-only local news offering.

**2020
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

BEST NEWSPAPER UNDER 1000 CIRCULATION



Think of the wo

Dalby Herald

TIME FOR DALBY TO TAKE OFF



**EQUAL THIRD PLACE:
BOWEN INDEPENDENT
BURDEKIN ADVOCATE
DALBY HERALD**



**SECOND PLACE:
LAIDLEY LEADER**



**FIRST PLACE:
WHITSUNDAY
TIMES**

Judge Peter Read's comment: Despite the downturn in the local tourist industry this paper is a good read, with a high story count and some hard-hitting news, along with cheery social pics and a good spread of local news.



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BEST NEWSPAPER OVER 1000 CIRCULATION



SECOND PLACE: HINTERLAND TIMES

Peter Read's comments:
This magazine style publication is well presented, colourful and covers the arts scene very well. More hard news would improve its impact.



EQUAL THIRD PLACE: GATTON STAR and NOOSA TODAY

Peter Read's comments:
Both papers have a good story count and are well presented. They are both very effectively filling a news niche in their market.



FIRST PLACE: SURAT BASIN NEWS

Peter Read's comments:
An impressive niche publication more than a traditional country paper but containing a good spread of industry news along with colourful social pics. The layout is interesting and the publication not only connects well with the Surat Basin mining communities but also keeps readers of other host publications well informed about what is happening in the Basin.



2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BEST NEWSPAPER EMPLOYING TWO OR LESS JOURNALISTS



THIRD PLACE: BOWEN INDEPENDENT

Peter Read's comments:
A good example of what can be achieved by so few. Well presented and has an impressive news content.



SECOND PLACE: WESTERN STAR, ROMA

Peter Read's comments:
Good coverage of local issues and community events. Impressive "Shining the light on mental health in the West" coverage.

FIRST PLACE: BALONNE BEACON

Peter Read's comments:
A good example of a colourful local paper passionately covering its region. Good layouts and interesting and diverse content.



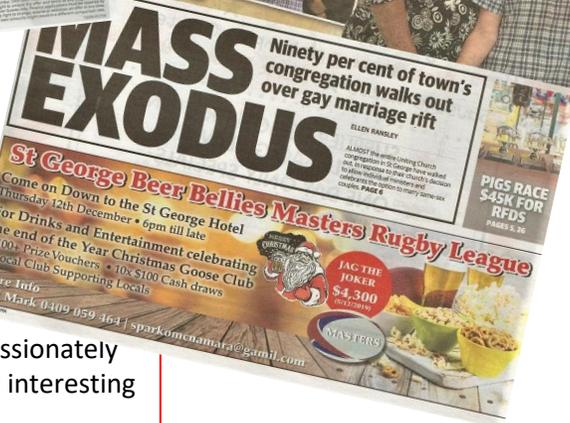
2020 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

MOST IMPROVED NEWSPAPER



THIRD PLACE: BURDEKIN ADVOCATE

Peter Read's comments:
A good range of picture stories and in-depth articles. Not afraid to tackle the hard news and more contentious issues. Their clean front page design gives the publication a professional image.



SECOND PLACE: BALONNE BEACON

Peter Read's comments: A good example of a colourful local paper passionately covering its region. Good layouts and interesting and diverse content.



FIRST PLACE: SURAT BASIN NEWS

Peter Read's comments: The improved layout gives this publication credibility in its niche field.



SPECIAL THANKS

Queensland Country Press Association Inc sincerely thanks the judges of this year's Newspaper Excellence Awards for providing their time, their professional assessments and constructive comments assisting member newspapers improve the quality and services to readers and advertisers.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO OUR SPONSOR PARTNERS

