



Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists



Rabobank

Star Prizes open to New South Wales reporters

The Australian Star Prize awards for Rural Writing, Broadcasting and Photography open on Wednesday, 4 March, and close on Wednesday, 25 March 2015.

New South Wales journalists and photographers have the opportunity to showcase their talents to the world and gain international recognition for their work following the national launch of the Australian Star Prize awards on Wednesday.

Launched at a Rural Media South Australia (RMSA) event in Adelaide, South Australia, the awards support prize-winning writers and broadcasters with overseas travel to experience a World Congress with a focus on international agricultural journalism.

This year's winners of the Star Prize for Rural Broadcasting, sponsored by global agribusiness bank, Rabobank, and the Star Prize for Rural Writing are set to attend the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) World Congress in Hamilton, New Zealand, from 14 to 18 October 2015.

Speaking at the national launch, Rabobank's James Robertson said the \$6000-travel prizes, including flights, accommodation and congress registration, help induct Australia's rural reporters into the international media community, and provide them with new global insights, perspective and connections.

Categories for the Rabobank Star Prize for Rural Broadcasting include television, radio and online broadcasting. Entries in the online broadcasting category require a mix of at least three of the following content areas: video, audio, text and images.

Run by the Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists (ACAJ), in partnership with the Farm Writers' Association of NSW and other state media clubs, the awards also see the winner of the Australian Star Prize for Rural Photography receive a \$1000 cash prize. Categories for the Star Prize for Rural Photography include people, production and nature/landscape.

Farm Writers' Association of NSW president Paul Dellow said the 2014 NSW winner of the Australian Star Prize for Rural Broadcasting, NSW -based ABC reporter Lucy Barbour testified to the calibre of the award entries in this state. Barbour's winning story, titled "Budburst to bottle" followed the story of a grape vine from budburst to wine production.

ABC TV Landline's Peter Lewis from Queensland won the 2014 Rabobank Australian Star Prize for Rural Broadcasting. Peter's story "Born to be Wild" examined the devastating effect wild dogs are having on the sheep industry in western Queensland.

Adding to this accolade, NSW journalist, Samantha Townsend, The Daily Telegraph was the Farm Writers Association of NSW 2014 winner in the Australian Star Prize for Rural Writing with her story, titled "The Town that fought back" on mental health in the bush.

Work entered in the awards must cover a rural or regional subject, and must have been published in 2014.

For NSW reporters, award entries opened on Wednesday, 4 March and entries close on Wednesday, 25 March 2015.

The Farm Writers' Association of NSW, and other state clubs, announces state winners for the Rural Writing, Broadcasting and Photography categories, before they are entered in the national Star Prize competition.

National winners are selected to compete at an international level in the IFAJ Star Prize awards. The IFAJ announces the world Star Prize winners at its congress in New Zealand in October, 2015.

To enter the awards, visit the Farm Writers' Association of NSW website at www.nswfarmwriters.org.au or the ACAJ website at www.acaj.org.au

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