



Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists

News Release

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Four Australians win world rural journalism awards

Four Australian rural journalists and photographers have won prestigious world awards for their work, it was announced at a conference in New Zealand, today.

The Star Prize Awards ceremony was a highlight of the 2015 World Congress of the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists being held in the North Island city of Hamilton.

Three ABC journalists were honoured in radio, television and digital broadcast categories while Townsville Bulletin photographer Fiona Harding was a rural photography winner in the People category.

Fiona's entry was a striking portrait of Aboriginal stockman Terry Nimble at sunset. It was earlier judged the Australian rural photograph of the year for 2015 and was one of three national entries submitted for word judging.

ABC Cairns-based rural reporter Charlie McKillop won the Rabobank 2015 Australian Star Prize Award for rural broadcasting before going on to win the world title in the radio category.

Her report was on halal slaughter in a small north Queensland abattoir.

Charlie was at the Congress in New Zealand to receive her award, having won the trip as her Australian Prize.

A South Australian entry from ABC radio reporter Lauren Waldhuter won the world digital media award for a report on a deadly virus affecting Australian canola crops.

Kerry Staight from ABC Landline in South Australia was runner up in the world television award category with a program titled *Bitter Harvest* which dealt with the severe oversupply of wine grapes in Australia.

Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists President Genevieve McAulay said the strong showing at the 2015 World Congress reflected the high standard of rural reporting in Australia.

"The annual World Star Prize Awards are the top honours for rural journalism and it's great to be able to congratulate four Australian winners this year," she said.

For more information, contact Genevieve McAulay on 0428 279 576.

Photos:



IFAJ Secretary General Ritta Mustonen presented Charlie McKillop, ABC Cairns, with her World Star Prize Award in Hamilton, New Zealand. They are pictured with Leigh Radford, head of ABC Rural.



Fiona Harding's world winning people photograph