



FORUM

VIR GEMEENSKAPJSOERNALISTE / OF COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS

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FCJ announces winners of 2020 Annual Excellence Awards

December 3, 2021 - The Forum of Community Journalists today, December 3, announced the winners of the 2020 FCJ Annual Excellence Awards.

The FCJ Excellence Awards remains the only national newspaper competition for the South African community press with this year's event attracting a total of 2 042 individual content pieces entered.

The 2020 top honours went to Samantha Lee-Jacobs from People's Post who was announced at the FCJ Journalist of the Year whilst Wayne van der Walt from Highvelder took the title of FCJ Photographer of the Year.

The Alet Roux Award is given by the judges to a journalist who has been in the industry for less than three years and who is a finalist in the journalist of the year category. The judges were impressed with the quality of work entered by young journalists and the winner of 2020 is Jarryd Westerdale from Roodepoort Record and Northsider. In second place was Chantélle Hartebeest from Paarl Post.

The newspaper categories saw South Coast Sun, Kempton Express, Vaalweekblad and Paarl Post win in their respective categories.

The winner in sports photography was Ettienne van Rensburg from Vaalweekblad.

Directors

Marietta Lombard– Executive Director, Ben Burger – Deputy Executive Director,
Tobie van den Bergh, Pieter Delpont, Hugo Redelinghuys, Roelien D'Amico, Joline Nash
Luvuyo Mjekula (co-opted), Lientjie Mentz (co-opted)

About the FCJ:

The FCJ (Forum of Community Journalists) is an independent, voluntary non-profit company striving to promote and express the interests of all journalists employed on a permanent or freelance basis at regional community newspapers and online community publications in South Africa.

Top photographer Wayne van der Walt also dominated in the remainder of the photography sections as he won both general news and hard news photography. Investigative reporting was won by Jon Houzet from Talk of the Town with the top journalist, Samantha Lee-Jacobs taking the winner's title in hard news and digital reportage categories.

The newly introduced Covid-19 reportage category was won by Middelburg Observer's Daleen Naude with Tygerburger's Nielen de Klerk taking top honours in human interest writing.

George Herald's Hugo Redelinghuys was the 2020 top sports journalist whilst Etienne van Rensburg won the headlines category.

The best columnist for the year was Phumelelo Hlati from The Representative whilst Jon Houzet from Talk of the Town won the Editorial Comment category.

In the best frontpage categories, the winners were Bedfordview and Edenvale News in the corporate-owned free section and KnysnaPlett Herald in the corporate-owned paid section.

The winner in the Newspaper of the Year Corporate-owned Free publication (pagination 24 and less) was South Coast Sun, edited by Roelien D'Amico.

Winner of the Watts Trophy for Corporate-owned Free publication (pagination 24 and more) was Kempton Express, edited by Marietta Lombard.

The Hultzer Trophy for Corporate-owned Paid publication (circulation 5 000 and less) went to Vaalweekblad, edited by Elsje Vermeulen.

The Cronwright Trophy for Corporate-owned paid publication (circulation 5 000 and more) went to Paarl Post, edited by Lise Beyers.

The judges for the 2020 competition were André Gouws, Cornia Pretorius, Thalyta Louw-Swanepoel, Hennie Stander, Willem Kempen, Colin Hoffman, Marita Meyer, Pedro Diederichs, Johann de Jager, Johann Maarman, Marlene Malan, Hennie Homann, Eddie Alberts, Sarie van der Berg, Janus Snyders and Lizette Odendaal.

Judges in the photography sections were impressed by winners' technique and overall impact of photos.

Judges in the writing categories commended community journalists on their Covid-19 reportage and the storytellers' ability to skillfully interweave crucial and critical information, whilst maintaining storytelling-style.

The newspaper categories remain highly contested with judges stating that after careful consideration of all the entries the standard can only be described as 'excellent'. Judges

added that the adjudication process confirmed that community newspapers are still the best source of news for a specific community; the most effective platform where communities' voices can be heard and they excel in providing detail in local and relevant news.

The FCJ again received support from Caxton and Media 24 and with these two stalwarts we can continue our efforts to ensure a reliable, credible media.

The finalists and winners in the various categories are as follows:

PHOTOGRAPHY

Sports photography

Finalists:

- Fast Forward: Ettienne van Rensburg
- In the hole: Hugo Redelinghuys
- Sien julle by die eindstreep: Hugo Redelinghuys
- Too late: Wayne van der Walt
- Gijima: Wayne van der Walt
- Mooi mik: Hugo Redelinghuys
- Op en oor: Wayne van der Walt
- Haastige haasbek: Ettienne van Rensburg
- Bielie van 'n bul: Wayne van der Walt
- In die kake van die modder-monster: Elsje Vermeulen

Top 3

3rd place Too late: Wayne van der Walt

2nd place: Bielie van 'n bul: Wayne van der Walt

1st place: Fast Forward: Ettienne van Rensburg

General news photography

Finalists:

- Dis my been: Zita Goldswain
- Haweloos: Wayne van der Walt
- Squatting birthday: Chrisune Vermeulen
- General 4-1: Daleen Naudé
- Hou vas: Wayne van der Walt
- She ain't heavy, she's my teacher: Taylum Meyer
- So maak jy 'n entrance: Elsje Vermeulen
- Waiting in style: Elsje Vermeulen
- Met melk dankie: Maretha Swanepoel
- Trollie-ritte: Zita Goldswain

Top 3:

3rd place: She ain't heavy, she's my teacher: Taylum Meyer

2nd place: Haweloos: Wayne van der Walt

1st place: Hou vas: Wayne van der Walt

Hard news photography

Finalists:

- Vlug van die lewe: Chrisune Vermeulen
- Listen: Wayne van der Walt
- Lê stil: Zita Goldswain
- Target acquired: Blake Linder
- Ek mis my gestorwe maats: Elsje Vermeulen
- Point blank: Wayne van der Walt
- Pappa wat nou: Chrisune Vermeulen
- Vlamme woed: Wayne van der Walt
- 'n Gebed vir 'n gestorwe boer: Elsje Vermeulen

Top 33rd place: Point blank: Wayne van der Walt2nd place: 'n Gebed vir 'n gestorwe boer: Elsje Vermeulen1st place: Listen: Wayne van der Walt**WRITING****Investigative reporting**

Finalists:

- Daleen Naude: Middelburg Observer
- Breyten Cupido: Worcester Standard
- Rick Marais: Hermanus Times
- Jon Houzet: Talk of the Town
- Jana Boshoff: Middelburg Observer

Top 33rd place – Daleen Naude: Middelburg Observer2nd place – Jana Boshoff: Middelburg Observer1st place winner – Jon Houzet: Talk of the Town**Hard News**

Finalists:

- Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post
- Rob Knowles: Talk of the Town
- Richard Roberts: TygerBurger
- Desirée Rorke: TygerBurger
- Dustin Wetdewich: Potchefstroom Herald
- Esmé Erasmus: TygerBurger
- Helena Barnard: Noordkaap Bulletin
- Bianca du Plessis: Hermanus Times
- Gerda Bruinette: Vaalweekblad and Ster South
- Gerhard Rheeder: Middelburg Observer
- Bridget Mpande: Lowvelder

Top 3:

Joint 3rd place – Desirée Rorke (TygerBurger) and Helena Barnard (Noordkaap Bulletin)
2nd place - Bridget Mpande: Lowvelder
1st place - Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post

Covid-19 reportage

Finalists:

- Daleen Naude: Middelburg Observer
- Kaylynne Bantom: People's Post
- Helena Barnard: Noordkaap Bulletin
- Desirée Rorke: TygerBurger
- Nettalie Viljoen: People's Post
- Jana Boshoff: Middelburg Observer
- Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post
- Maryke Swart: Swartland Gazette
- Murphy Roberts: WeskusNuus
- Wayne van der Walt: Highvelder

Top 3:

3rd place - Murphy Roberts: WeskusNuus
2nd place - Desirée Rorke: TygerBurger
1st place - Daleen Naude: Middelburg Observer

Human Interest

Finalists:

- Maretha Swanepoel: Polokwane Review
- Lientjie Mentz: Bloemnuus
- Daleen Naude: Middelburg Observer
- Karen Engelbrecht: Letaba Herald
- Fuad Esack: Cape Community Newspapers (Plainsman)
- Nielen de Klerk: TygerBurger
- Jamey Lakin Gordon: DistrictMail
- Marti Will: Vista
- Esmé Erasmus: TygerBurger
- Helena Barnard: NoordKaapBulletin

Top 3

3rd place Esmé Erasmus: TygerBurger
2nd place Maretha Swanepoel: Polokwane Review
1st place: Nielen de Klerk: TygerBurger

Sport reportage

Finalists:

- David Rush: South Coast Herald
- Hugo Redelinghuys: George Herald
- Blake Linder Knysna-Plett Herald
- Fuad Esack: Cape Community Newspapers/Plainsman
- Marti Will: Vista

Top 3

3rd place Marti Will: Vista

2nd place Fuad Esack: Cape Community Newspapers/Plainsman

1st place Hugo Redelinghuys: George Herald

Digital reporting:

Finalists:

- Daleen Naudé: Middelburg Observer
- Jarryd Westerdale: Roodepoort Record/Northsider
- Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post
- Danell Watts: Lowvelder
- Sanelisiwe Tsinde: Highway Mail

Top 3:

3rd place Jarryd Westerdale: Roodepoort Record/Northsider

2nd place Danell Watts: Lowvelder

1st place Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post.

Columns:

Finalists:

- Jarryd Westerdale: Rodepoort Record/Northsider
- Gerda Bruinette: Vaalweekblad & Ster South
- Blake Linder: Knysna-Plett Herald
- Lientjie Mentz: Bloemnuus
- Linzetta Calitz: Lowvelder
- Phumelelo Hlati: The Representative
- Tamsyn Jantjies: Worcester Standard
- Madre Marais: Bloemnuus
- Yaël Malgas: Weslander
- Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post

The top 3

- Blake Linder: Knysna-Plett Herald
- Phumelelo Hlati: The Representative
- Tamsyn Jantjies: Worcester Standard

Winner: Phumelelo Hlati: The Representative

Editorial Comment:

Finalists:

- Joline van der Merwe: Weslander
- Tasmin Cupido: DistrictMail
- Helena Barnard: NoordKaap Bulletin
- Jon Houzet: Talk of the Town
- Marti Will: Vista
- Tobie van den Berg: Middelburg Observer
- Dustin Wetdewich: Potchefstroom Herald
- Marlene Jordaan: Worcester Standard

- Luvuyo Mjekula: The Representative
- Lise Beyers: Paarl Post

Top 3

- Luvuyo Mjekula: The Representative
- Tobie van den Berg: Middelburg Observer
- Jon Houzet: Talk of the Town

1st place Winner: Jon Houzet: Talk of the Town

Headlines

Finalists:

- Madre Marais: Bloemnuus
- Chrisune Vermeulen: Witbank News
- Fuad Esack: Cape Community Newspapers
- Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post
- Ettienne van Rensburg: Vaalweekblad
- Samantha Traill: Witbank News
- Mark Kinnear: Lowvelder
- Elsje Vermeulen: Vaalweekblad
- Gerda Bruinette: Vaalweekblad & Ster South

Top 3

3rd place - Madre Marais: Bloemnuus

2nd place - Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post

1st place - Ettienne van Rensburg: Vaalweekblad

BEST FRONT PAGES

Corporate-owned free:

Finalists:

- BonusReview
- Roodepoort Record
- Bloemnuus
- Bedfordview and Edenvale News
- NoordKaap Bulletin
- Northcliff Melville Times
- People's Post - City & Atlantic Seaboard
- Randfontein Herald
- Rosebank Killarney Gazette
- TygerBurger Bellville

Top 3:

3rd place Roodepoort Record

2nd place Northcliff Melville Times

1st place Bedfordview and Edenvale News

Corporate-owned paid:

Finalists:

- Bosveld

- DistrictMail/DistrikPos
- George Herald
- Hermanus Times
- Lowvelder
- Paarl Post
- South Coast Herald
- Knysna-Plett Herald
- Witbank News
- Worcester Standard

Top 3:

3rd place Paarl Post

2nd place Lowvelder

1st place KnysnaPlett Herald

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Corporate-owned, Free, Pagination 24 and less

Finalists:

- Noordkaap Bulletin
- South Coast Sun
- Rekord Oos
- Germiston City News
- TygerBurger

Top 3:

3rd place TygerBurger – Editor: Cecilia Hume

2nd place Germiston City News – Editor: Marietta Lombard

1st place South Coast Sun – Editor: Roelien D’Amico

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

**Corporate-owned Free Pagination 24 and more
(WATTS TROPHY)**

Finalists:

- Randburg Sun
- Kempton Express
- Fourways Review
- Sandton Chronicle
- Bedfordview and Edenvale News

Top 3:

3rd place: Bedfordview and Edenvale News – Editor: Marietta Lombard

2nd place: Randburg Sun – Editor: Aimee McGill

1st place: Kempton Express – Editor: Marietta Lombard

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**Corporate-owned, Paid, Circulation 5 000 and less
HULTZER TROPHY**

Finalists:

- Bosvelder
- Vryheid Herald
- DistrictMail/DistrikPos
- Vaalweekblad
- Polokwane Review

Top 3:3rd place Polokwane Review – Editor: Joline Nash2nd place DistrictMail/DistrikPos – Editor: Tasmin Cupido1st place Vaalweekblad – Editor Elsje Vermeulen**NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR****Corporate-owned, Paid, Circulation 5 000 and more
CRONWRIGHT TROPHY**

Finalists:

- Worcester Standard
- Witbank News
- Lowvelder
- Paarl Post
- George Herald

Top 3:3rd place George Herald – Editor Lizette da Silva2nd place Lowvelder – Editor Stefan de Villiers1st place: Paarl Post - Editor Lise Beyers**ALEX ROUX AWARD**

Runner-up: Chantélie Hartebeest: Paarl Post

Winner: Jarryd Westerdale: Roodepoort Record and Northsider

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Finalists are:

- Chrisune Vermeulen: Witbank News
- Ettienne van Rensburg: Vaalweekblad
- Wayne van der Walt: Highvelder
- Elsje Vermeulen: Vaalweekblad

Winner:

Wayne van der Walt

JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Top 10:

- Ettienne van Rensburg: Vaalweekblad
- Chantélie Hartebeest: Paarl Post
- Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post

- Abongile Solundwana: The Representative
- Jarryd Westerdale: Roodepoort Record/Northsider
- Nettalie Viljoen: People's Post
- Desirée Rorke: TygerBurger
- Blake Linder: Knysna-Plett Herald
- Daleen Naude: Middelburg Observer
- Carina Roux: TygerBurger

Top 3:

3rd place - Desirée Rorke: TygerBurger

2nd place - Nettalie Viljoen: People's Post

1st place - Samantha Lee-Jacobs: People's Post

Visit the FCJ Facebook page for the list of finalists or go to our YouTube channel to view the virtual awards ceremony.

Follow us on Twitter @ForumofCJ

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For more information, visit www.fcjonline.co.za or send an email to myfcjinfo@gmail.com.