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For Immediate Release

Lyndal Curtis wins Paul Lyneham Award

ABC Radio journalist Lyndal Curtis is the unanimous winner of the 2009 Paul Lyneham Award for Excellence in Journalism for the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery.

The award, announced at the Press Gallery Mid-Winter Ball, carries the name and celebrates the work of Paul Lyneham, one of the finest journalists of his generation.

The Paul Lyneham Award is uniquely restricted to members of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery and is made possible by Paul Lyneham's family, wife Dorothy Horsfield, daughter Chloe and sons Joel & Mathew Lyneham.

This year the Lyneham family were honoured to have the former High Court Judge, the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, the former NSW Premier, Hon Nick Greiner AC, and the former Editor of The Age, Michael Gawenda, judge this prestigious Award.

The judges said the work by Lyndal Curtis reflected "the same high standards that Paul Lyneham set himself".

"She constantly presented her stories under extremely severe deadlines. A feature of them was the interplay of voices expressing differing points of view all attractively packaged in a seamless whole for one of the flagships of the national broadcaster, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. So among regular excellent contributions to the programs AM, World Today and PM, Lyndal Curtis contributed to setting the agenda which was taken up by print and other electronic media.

"Hers was reportage of a very high order all the while displaying good humour, calm and humanity and a degree of understanding of the pressures under which elected leaders and other officials operate, often with minimal appreciation."

The judges praised the very high standard of the entries received this year, and gave a special commendation to Steve Lewis of News Limited for the "large impact" of his "graphically written" political reporting that would often "initiate both radio and television coverage".

Due to the quality of the entries, the three judges also took the unusual step of singling out for special praise the entries received from John Breusch (Australian Financial Review), Tony Wright (The Age) and Phillip Coorey (Sydney Morning Herald).

The Award is sponsored by the National Australia Bank. Lyndal Curtis will receive a \$5000 cheque and have her name inscribed on the Paul Lyneham perpetual trophy. Designed by cartoonist Bruce Petty, the trophy is permanently displayed at the National Press Club. Past winners include Matt Price, Tony Walker, Laura Tingle, Paul Daley, Mark Riley, Lenore Taylor and Katharine Murphy.

The Lyneham family congratulates Lyndal Curtis and thanks the three esteemed judges, the National Australia Bank, the National Press Club and the Federal Press Gallery Committee for making this year's Paul Lyneham Award such a huge success.

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