

Presented in May 2023

WINNERS AND JUDGES' COMMENTS



BEST IDEA/INNOVATION

Winner: Eastlife Magazine – History Book

This was a change in thinking and a long-term sustainable solution for the publication. It represented some good out-of-the-box thinking for the business. It was also a great way to re-engage the community and provide another way for locals to connect with the publication. Eastlife met the brief in a detailed and sustainable way.

Runner Up: Scene in Matamata – Thinking Outside the Square



BEST FEATURE/SUPPLEMENT

Winner: The Beacon – Whakatane Mill Anniversary Celebration

A comprehensive feature backgrounding the `saving' of the mill and where it is positioned 12 months later after near closure. A true story of recovery from adversity. Detailed history and accounts from the new owners on the path forward outlining considerable investment in people and new plant. Key to the feature is the focus on staff and the uncertainty they all faced with imminent closure only 12 months prior. Great to see all 157 staff featured with individual photographs, an acknowledgement of the efforts they all gave to save the plant. A nice touch and no doubt good for readership

Runner Up: King Country News - Te Rangiwaituhi/Hikaka ki runga, Hikaka ki raro A significant publication to commemorate the settlement of the Treaty for local iwi. Well documented history and plans for the future. This will be a collectors' item.





BEST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Joint

Winner: The News (Central Otago) – Behind the Facade

A terrific series looking at the under belly of living in the region. Loved the way that a brand was created which made it easy to follow. The community issues highlighted under the brand were well thought through and investigated. The standard of journalism and reporting was excellent. And the passion from Marjorie and Amber was very evident. The range of people interviewed was impressive. Where this entry was let down was in the space it was provided – looked cramped and visually not well supported with strong imagery, some of the articles felt very text heavy. For those that read the articles the topics and coverage would have provided a fascinating insight into a world most rarely see.

Joint Winner

Winner: The Beacon – Onepu Community Park

The Beacon recognised that Onepu Park was a local asset that was in danger of disappearing as a popular community venue. The campaign covered many different aspects of the issue and followed it from the original threat posed to the conclusion.

Many different angles were presented focusing especially on the users of the park and the impact of its not being a community asset. Visually appealing with terrific images and engaging local stories with heaps of leadership or campaigning coming from the publication.

Great use of the Public Interest Journalism fund as the investigators had the time to follow the story over many issues and all the twists and turns. Great timing of course with the local body elections at the time and feeding that angle into the story. I didn't get a sense that editorially the publication took a position, though it was clear through the reporting.



Runner Up: The Valley Profile

The crime spree was covered professionally and provided a clear story on the impact the crime wave was having on local business owners. It was very on trend at the time. The stories were passionate and well presented with great imagery and headers. While it was an issue and well covered off there was less on different solutions and I didn't see any editorial support to the topic. Great use of the Public Interest journalism fund. Compared to the winners this topic was much shorter and seemed to stop midstream with council backflip. Less investigative or background material and less follow-through than the two winners.



BEST GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Winner: Clare McGillivray, Times Media A comprehensive submission, clean design and balanced use of colour and font choice. For most of the portfolio, this combination provided advertising with clear messages that stood out for the reader.

Runner Up: Michelle Lewis, Waiheke Weekender/Gulf News

Some great advertisements and only narrowly Runner-Up by a close margin. Feature spreads including the Art Map and GWE Engineers covering the Water Services Act were well presented. As commented above, the modest use of colour really made these pages easy to read, providing a clear path for readers to navigate and absorb the content.





BEST LIFESTYLE FEATURE WRITER

Winner: Paula Hulbert, Marlborough Magazine Paula's work had interesting subjects, captivating writing and a plurality of voices. A worthy winner.

Runner Up: Paul Mitchell, Waiheke Weekender/Gulf News Paul was given the space to do his subjects justice, and tackled events and people at the heart of the Waiheke community.



BEST SALES PROFESSIONAL

Winner: Nikki Sanders, The Valley Profile

Nikki has continued the growth trajectory for Valley Profile during 2022, as the paper launched The Coromandel App and also expanded their distribution into the Waihi area where she worked hard and successfully won new business, competing against not one, but two existing papers in the area.



BEST HEADLINE WRITER – BRIAN ROGERS MEMORIAL AWARD

- Winner: Daryl Holden, Ashburton Guardian A wonderful set of funny, pithy and smart headlines. Puns can be overdone but these are examples of the art of headline writing at its finest. "Naan left" is a particular favourite.
- Runner Up:Gordon Preece, The Valley ProfileCrisp headlines with a twist. Nice use of puns without being silly.





BEST SPORTS JOURNALIST

Winner: Jon Rawlinson, Times Media

Jon's stories provide an in-depth, engaging look at local sports talent across both main-stream and lesser known sports. His thorough knowledge of both the sport and the subject he is interviewing shines through in his stories.

Runner Up: Jack Malcolm, Top South Media

Jack provides a look into not just the players, but also some of the organisations and local identities that support the development of sport in the region which provides a great variety of stories for the Sports section.



BEST JUNIOR NEWS JOURNALIST

Winner: Brianna Stewart, King Country News

Brianna's portfolio was the standout. It was as broad as it was deep, showing a reporter connected to their community and willing to go the extra mile to get a story. There was a pleasing mix of hard and soft news. She gave the same care and attention to stories about the disappearance of Tom Phillips and his three children – a national story – as she did to the death of Ōtorohanga identity Karam Haddad. I appreciated Brianna's use of reported speech high up in a story to set the scene, before heading into quotes.

Runners Up: Gordon Preece, The Valley Profile Ben Tomsett, Southland Express





BEST SENIOR NEWS JOURNALIST

Winner: Kelly Tantau, The Valley Press

Anchored by an exclusive story that Thames-Coromandel Mayor Sandra Goudie wouldn't stand in last year's elections, Kelley's portfolio showcased her versatility. She performed well when it came to stories about crime, digging into council spending, and a widow fearing deportation. Strong news writing is paired with the ability to become lyrical if a human interest story presents itself. Kelley is a deserving winner.

Runners Up: Daryl Holden, Ashburton Guardian Jo Kent, Waimea Weekly



BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

Winner: John Borren, Sun Media

As a news photographer, John has demonstrated an exceptional ability to capture moments that tell powerful stories, and his portfolio of photographs showcases his immense talent in the areas of creativity, composition, and visual impact. John's work stands out for its ability to evoke emotions and convey a sense of place and time. His use of light and colour is masterful, and his compositions are both striking and thought-provoking. He has a unique ability to capture the essence of his subjects, whether they are people, places, or events, and his photographs often transcend the moment to become works of art in their own right.

Runner Up: Shannon Thomson, The News (Central Otago)

Shannon's works as both a reporter and photographer, and her portfolio of photographs showcases her exceptional skills and versatility. Her ability to capture a wide range of subjects visually reflects all aspects of life in her community. She has a keen eye for detail and a talent for capturing the essence of her subjects, whether they are people, landscapes, or events. Shannon has a talent for using lenses and lighting to create powerful and evocative images. Her work is a testament to the power of photography to inform and inspire.





BEST FRONT PAGE - MAGAZINE

Winner: Metropol Magazine

Loved the full of colour covers and the simple clean cover lines; Great variety of covers – with different appeals; images really stood out – punchy.

Runner Up: Rural Living, Times Media

Loved the real life images; had a nice local feel; with a nice formulaic use of cover line placement. Worked well.



BEST FRONT PAGE – NEWSPAPER

Winner: Weekend Sun

A series of clean, bright, engaging front pages. Lovely combination of commanding imagery, clever headlines and use of colour. Impossible to pick a single favourite out of the four as they all make the reader stand up and take notice.

Runner Up: Ashburton Guardian

Some powerful and newsworthy front pages. Strong images and punchy story pointers.





BEST MAGAZINE

Winner: Waiheke Weekender

Great flow and balance of content and advertising. Felt it had a nice wide appeal to both locals and visitors. Welcoming to flick through and for a more in-depth read.

Runner Up: Metropol Enjoyed the layout and feel; plenty of content that appeals to a wide range of age groups. Visually pleasing.



BEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER - FRANK VEALE MEMORIAL AWARD

Winner: Ashburton Guardian

The Guardian has been around a long time, and in that time it has most certainly kept up with all that's happening in Mid-Canterbury. The Guardian has a large and wide-ranging selection of stories; all well written and concise. The editorial staff members have certainly got their ears to the ground and are keeping their community well informed. A strong campaigner, the Guardian has become the caring organisation a community newspaper should be. It sets out to engage all members of the community, and it does so very well, with solid sport and lifestyle sections along with the general news. It was good to see a 'Heritage' page explaining some of the history of the area, and also a regular editorial – something missing from many of our community papers these days. A well-deserved winner.

Runner Up: The Rangitoto Observer

The small reporting staff at the Rangitoto Observer's fortnightly edition ensure the publication is something that I would very much like to sit down and devour while having my morning cup of coffee. It's close to the community and the reporters obviously work hard to ensure the community is well aware of happenings close by. As well as good quality and far-reaching general news stories, The Observer also pays good attention to sport and the arts in well-labelled sections.





CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS

