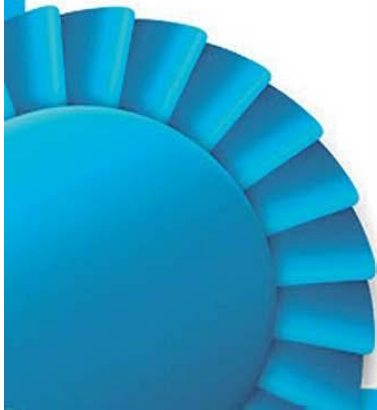


# **CNA** **AWARDS** **2025** **WINNERS**



**Presented in May 2025**

**WINNERS AND JUDGES' COMMENTS**

## CNA AWARDS WINNERS 2025

### BEST IDEA/INNOVATION

**Winner:      The Beacon – ANZAC 2024**

This entry was clearly a winner, creating a stand-alone tabloid publication of 28 pages to commemorate ANZAC 2024, collaborating with the local RSA President. Finding a substantial sponsor, Te Puna Ora o Mataatua to assist with the print cost was a smart formula to give readers heartfelt stories from all veteran divisions.

Solid revenue of \$12k and giving a generous donation back to the RSA completed the entire award-winning innovative idea.

Full credit goes to their graphic designer with superb choice of fonts, layout and historic photos which made it truly a collectable keepsake.

It would have taken a very long time for the writer to collate all the interviews and been an emotional journey of remembrance for those Veterans featured.

**Runner Up:    The Local – Mt Victoria**

This well-deserved second place goes to The Local - Mt Victoria, Wellington, created just last year when an opportunity was identified for a small, monthly informative publication distributed in an area just over one kilometre to a population of 4,500.

For some that circulation covers a much larger geographic area, but the obvious need for a suburb to have home delivery with 16 pages is remarkable. By all accounts there is no shortage of news with local councillors, services, community amenities and the local noticeboard very informative.

A cracker idea and although advertising light, it makes for a great read and even more superlative it is delivered by volunteers - showing total reader support and engagement.



## **BEST FEATURE/SUPPLEMENT**

### **Winner: Metropol - Christchurch Cup Week Fashion**

This entry took my breath away, one of the most stunning works of fantastic photography, layout, design and fonts made it likeable to a top quality fashion magazine.

Revenue sourced from all arenas made the entire supplement present professionally and aligned it to the event of 'Cup Week' in Canterbury - a must go to affair.

Special mention to the sub editor, captions totally pertinent and play on words spectacular.

### **Runner Up: Metropol– Conferences and Events 2024**

`A feature of high quality, a great initiative and revenue source portraying beautiful venues for unforgettable experiences.

Showcasing what's on offer for conference organisers, foodies, group fun with local jaunts, the arts and hospitality experiences.

The advertising and graphics liaison is very evident here, a magnificent concept.



## **BEST COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Winner: Mangere's 275 Times  
Mangere Youth Voices Project**

This entry showed a real commitment not only to their community, but to the world of community journalism, by giving local high school students the opportunity to share their stories and express themselves.

They worked with local schools over five months and provided mentoring to the students and extra support to ensure the content was of an appropriate standard for publication.

As a result of the campaign they have been able to start a Youth Advisory Group in which local students can continue to contribute to the publication.

**Runner Up: Whangamata News  
ANZAC Day Memorial**

Using the paper to both garner support and report on the progress of this project to create a new Wall of Remembrance was a great example of community involvement. The finished result reminds both old and young of what ANZAC is all about.



## **BEST GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

**Winner: Clare McGillivray, Times Media**

Clare's submission showed off her range of design work. A mix of engaging adverts with an intelligent use of colour, to entire pages like the Cocktail Tour and Space Invaders page. Excellent work of a very high standard.

**Runners Up: Kat Walsh, The Beacon  
Vicky Denize, The Beacon/Wairoa Star**

The judges found it impossible to split the two runners-up.



## **BEST LIFESTYLE FEATURE WRITER**

**Winner: Rob Drent, The Devonport Flagstaff/The Rangitoto Observer**

Rob's winning portfolio showed his long-standing community connections, a reason many of his interview subjects agreed to talk to him and trusted him to tell their stories. From a motorcycle gang member finding some belonging in rugby, to a retiring GP who delivered some 4000 babies during her career, Rob told their stories compellingly and compassionately. In several cases, his stories went on to get national and international pick-up.

**Runner Up: Daryl Holden, Ashburton Guardian**

Daryl's portfolio of Ashburton Guardian stories displayed his understanding that great stories can be found everywhere, and that trusted local journalists are often the ones to secure interviews where national media have tried and failed. His entry showed expertise over a range of subjects, and it was obvious he had a rapport and empathy with his subjects, many of whom trusted him to tell very personal stories.



## **BEST SALES PROFESSIONAL**

**Winner: Nikki Sanders, The Valley Profile**

Nikki's ability to sell has seen her continuously beat the targets set for her, to the extent that it has allowed Valley Profile to increase its circulation by a further 2000 printed copies.



## **BEST HEADLINE WRITER – BRIAN ROGERS MEMORIAL AWARD**

**Winner:** Daryl Holden, Ashburton Guardian

**Runners Up:** Jane O'Loughlin, The Local – Mt Victoria  
Rob Drent, The Devonport Flagstaff

### **Judge's Note**

I congratulate all those who entered this section. I do fear headline writing is a skill being lost – but there was plenty here to suggest I'm wrong. The winners stood out for their witty and short headlines.

In headlines, less is more. Some headlines on offer were particularly long this year and consequently merged two ideas, which was to their detriment. That said, all entries showed the author sought to think outside of the square to come up with a clever headline – a great hook to introduce the reader to the story.



## **BEST SPORTS JOURNALIST**

**Winner:** Rob Drent, The Devonport Flagstaff

Rob's winning portfolio was lifted above the rest by three excellent stories which underlined his interviewing skills and ability to look beyond a sports result. Rob's insights – such as the subject of an obituary being known as 'Toll-booth Parlane' because he hit one on the Auckland Harbour Bridge and the rugby player who talks about his association with the Filthy Few – is gold.

**Runner Up:** Sam Coughlan, Christchurch Star/Bay Harbour News

Sam also told great stories about people which was a pleasure to see.

### **Judge's Note**

I have said this before – he tangata, he tangata, he tangata. Sports reporting is not about results or being selected, it is telling the stories of the people who achieved those results or were selected. Don't learn about your subject and your story just becomes a blow by blow match report with quotes about people trying hard and being amazed to win, thanking their sponsors and inviting the readers to leave and visit a website which is actually a media rival.

## **BEST JUNIOR NEWS JOURNALIST**

**Winner: Daniel Alvey, Selwyn Times**

Daniel's portfolio was strong on spot news, but he also showed deft treatment of the prominent Selwyn Huts eviction issue in a long-form piece. A council rates story provided important information without bombarding the reader with sleep-inducing jargon. The deputy mayor saving his father-in-law's life is the kind of human-interest piece, featuring a local body politician, that would have been read from start-to-finish.

**Runner Up: Lochlan Lineham, The Devonport Flagstaff**

Lochlan's lively writing pulls the reader to the end. His pieces show the value of following up news tips, including the excellent story of a ferry turning around to foil a bike thief. He also tackled the meaty issues well – including big drop in local school rolls, and the after-effects. Taking on a big company like Vector – its contractors were accused of causing flooding by blocking a drain – isn't always easy. But Lochlan had holy backing – the accusations were made by a church, and there was photographic evidence.

**Judge's Note:**

The future of journalism is bright. Entries in this category showed a dedication to the craft, and strong portfolios displaying a diversity of topics and talent. The best entries had few wasted words in their intros, and exhibited very crisp writing, especially in the opening paragraphs.



## **BEST SENIOR NEWS JOURNALIST**

**Winner: Daryl Holden, Ashburton Guardian**

Daryl is one of the industry's most consistent performers. A news breaker with great contacts, he follows Ashburton's biggest stories, like the unsolved murder of Kirsty Bentley, and the 2014 WINZ office shootings. He easily turns his superb writing to local sport. Again and again, he wins the trust of contacts to tell yarns of public importance.

**Runner Up: Rob Drent, The Devonport Flagstaff/The Rangitoto Observer**

What drew me to Rob's entry was the breadth of his portfolio, and the way he found his stories. It isn't all insider tips and using the Official Information Act, Rob walks around with his eyes open. He's got a great nose for a story of any sort, whether it's about sports, the environment or property. The human interest piece on returning bike gang member Ethan McMullan is indicative of Rob's off-the-beaten track ethic. It's a story told well and sensitively.

**Judge's Note**

Judging this strong collection of entries was extremely difficult. Senior journalists are proving to be not only the eyes and ears of their communities, but for other media as well. They're not filling the gaps but breaking important stories and shining a light where others are not. Special mention to Alice Parminter, of The Valley Profile, for her investigation into the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, and Beacon Media's Kathy Forsyth for her scoop on Whakatāne Hospital's obstetrics downgrade. The two top entries were veterans with deep community links.



## **BEST PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Winner: Mark James, Whangamata News**

The portfolio showed a broad range of angles and depth. Strong composition and stunning colour. Extremely high-quality work.

**Runner Up: Troy Baker, Beacon Media Group**

A very close second.





## **BEST FRONT PAGE - MAGAZINE**

**Winner: Metropol**

Strong photography, visually captivating imagery, along with engaging taglines, attract potential readers and effectively convey the magazine's content at a glance.

**Runners Up: Mangere's 275 Times**

Compelling covers that truly reflect the community.

**Onehunga Community News**

Bright and striking front covers.



## **BEST FRONT PAGE – NEWSPAPER**

**Winner: Whangamata News**

Whangamata News was the standout. It says its readers regularly comment on its great design and layout, and that's no surprise. I'd certainly pick one up. Its contrasting styles were a joy; the headlines crisp and clever. A striking art piece dominated the February 9 edition, while the face-heavy composite image celebrated the 'Beach Hop' in April. Masterful.

**Runner Up: Opotiki News**

Several papers entered a Christmas front page, and Ōpōtiki News did it best. I was looking for a contrasting white text on a dark background front page, and was rewarded by its February 8 edition, bolstered by a tantalising pull-quote. The 'game of thrones' comparison of local loos was a stroke of genius.

**Judge's comment:**

A front page is less a front door than a window to a newspaper's soul. A strong front page needs to be striking at a glance. In some cases, that might be for stark simplicity, in others a busyness that makes the page pop. While the economics of news aren't easy, graphic design isn't dead, and the reader is being rewarded.

These are professional publications that know their audience. As community papers, they have a commitment to giving their local faces prominence. However, it's going to be harder for a paper following a rigid template to win this category.

## **BEST MAGAZINE**

**Winner: Metropol**

Metropol delivers high-quality content, strong brand identity with excellent local editorial content. The striking photography, imagery, and compelling taglines demonstrate a thorough understanding of its intended audience.

**Runner Up: Waiheke Weekender**

The Weekender provides strong local editorial pieces that would appeal to both local community and visitors. The publication's design, layout, and typography enhance its overall visual appeal.



## **BEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER - FRANK VEALE MEMORIAL AWARD**

In a hotly-contested category, it was tough to narrow the field to just two winners. In a year where media cutbacks and closures were all too common, a particular shout out to two entrants - **The Local Mt Victoria**, which debuted in 2024; and **The Times/Eastern Times**, which made a return to print under a new owner. Congratulations to Jane O'Loughlin and Bo Burns - there's nothing like bucking a trend.

**Winner: Ashburton Guardian**

In the end, the win went to the Ashburton Guardian for important storytelling that showed a deep community commitment and connection. Whether it was holding power to account, celebrating local heroes or those playing their part on the region's sports fields, it was obvious this publication had people at its heart. Its front pages were impactful and nicely showcased what was inside, where pages were crisply laid out and contained a tremendous depth.

Particular congratulations to the Guardian for its 'More People Will Die' campaign, which forced Oranga Tamariki to reverse course after it stopped funding vital support workers. Community journalism at its finest.

**Runner Up: Mountain Scene**

The Mountain Scene informs, entertains, fundraises and fights for its community. Its commitment to local storytelling is obvious on every page. If it is happening in the Queenstown area, the Mountain Scene knows about it.

The Editorial team is proud to be the voice of the community and part of a local institution - the newspaper is known as the 'Queenstown Bible', and when its journalists come calling, authorities sit up and take notice. The epitome of a lively community newspaper - one you'd be very glad to have on your side.

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### GOLD



### SILVER

