

Friday November 29, 2013

Seven Network wins two Walkley Awards

The Seven Network has stamped its position as Australia's leading television network for news and public affairs, taking out two major categories in this year's Walkley Awards for excellence in Australian journalism.

Seven News crime reporter Robert Ovadia and Seven News investigative producer Paula Doneman were jointly recognised last night with the TV/AV News Reporting Award for their investigation into the Australian Defence Force's "Knights of the Jedi Council" sex ring.

An investigation that spanned weeks, the duo uncovered evidence the ADF had tried to cover up the Jedi investigation, initially clearing the soldiers then obstructing the police investigation.

A succession of stories identified all the main players, their ranks, specifically what they are accused of and details of the cover-up.

Network Director of News Rob Raschke said: "This is fitting recognition for outstanding journalism, old-fashioned digging, and a determination to shine a light into dark corners.

"Rob and Paula were relentless in their pursuit of an important story which set the agenda for others to follow."

This is Robert's second Walkley Award.

Earlier this year, Robert also won a Kennedy Award alongside Seven News colleagues Steve Barrett and Mark Riley for being first to report that the Central Coast home of embattled federal MP Craig Thompson had been raided by police in October last year.

Robert said: "The greatest privilege in this job is to be entrusted by people risking their own livelihoods to get the real story out there.

“Paula and I owe everything to those people. Stories like these - and being able to tell them without compromising contacts - don't come along too often.”

Sunday Night Executive Producer Mark Llewellyn last night accepted the Walkley Award for All Media Camerawork on behalf of reporter and cameraman Tim Noonan who was recognised for his body of work including “Shipbreakers”, “Surrogacy” and “Jackson’s Story”.

The award was recognition for Tim’s versatility as both cameraman and reporter, and his use of the latest filming technology including GoPro cameras and drones.

SEVEN NETWORK WALKLEY AWARD WINNERS:

TV/AV NEWS REPORTING

Proudly supported by BBC

Robert Ovadia and Paula Doneman, Seven News, Seven Network, “The Dark Side of the Force”

All Media Camerawork

Proudly supported by Australian Super

Tim Noonan, Sunday Night, Seven Network, “Shipbreakers”, “Surrogacy”, “Jackson’s Story”

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