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ABC Wins Gold at 2015 Walkley Awards

The ABC has won the Gold Walkley and seven other trophies at the 2015 Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism, Australian journalism's most prestigious honours, making it the most awarded media outlet.

The *Four Corners* team of Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Sam Clark and Max Murch were awarded the top honour for their expose 'Making a Killing', which uncovered the cruel and illegal use of live baiting in the greyhound racing industry. The team also won the Walkley for Investigative Journalism.

The Walkley judges said: "'Making a Killing' exposes greyhound racing's ugly secret. It took bravery, tenacity and months of planning in three states to produce a jaw-dropping report that has shaken not just the greyhound code but the entire racing industry."

The ABC had 26 finalists across 16 categories, the most of any media organisation.

ABC Managing Director Mark Scott commended the ABC Walkley nominees and congratulated the winners, in particular, Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Sam Clarke and Max Murch for their Gold Walkley.

"Last night's Walkley Awards showcased the best in Australian journalism," he said. "The ABC is proud that its journalists drawn from across ABC radio, television and news and current affairs were featured so prominently in the awards.

"The ABC has had an outstanding year in its coverage of key events and breaking stories that set the national news agenda.

"The ABC is the most trusted news outlet in the country and the 2015 Walkleys results reflect this position."

Director of News Gaven Morris said the winners list demonstrated the breadth and depth of ABC content, encompassing news and current affairs, multimedia storytelling, business and investigative reporting, documentary and camerawork.

"Everything we do in ABC News is centred around delivering Australians quality, independent news and current affairs they can trust, across all platforms," he said.

"Every day we provide our audiences outstanding investigative and in-depth reporting, specialist and international coverage, leading local news and live and breaking news services.

"When our work is also recognised in this way by our peers, it is a wonderful added reward. Congratulations to all the winners."

The ABC winners are:

- GOLD WALKLEY

Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Sam Clark and Max Murch, *Four Corners*, ABC TV (["Making a Killing"](#))

JUDGES COMMENTS: "Making A Killing" exposed greyhound racing's ugly secret: The use of live bait in training programs. The story required bravery, tenacity and months of planning in three states to produce a jaw-dropping report that has shaken not just the greyhound code but the entire racing industry.

- MULTIMEDIA STORYTELLING

Huw Parkinson, *Insiders*, ABC TV (["Bronwyn Bishop's Arrested Development"](#), ["Star Wars: Fixed"](#), ["The Breakfast Clubbing Season"](#))

JUDGES COMMENTS: Huw Parkinson's satirical and highly sharable videos showcase how the craft and consumption of news is driving multimedia reporting. These mashups are both journalism and entertainment taking hard-hitting news and creatively repositioning the characters and issues into satirical videos that both amuse and inform.

- RADIO/AUDIO NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS REPORTING

Mark Willacy and Mark Solomons, *PM* (["Hopeland"](#))

JUDGES COMMENTS: Mark Willacy and Mark Solomons' revelation of one of Australia's most significant environmental contaminations is a compelling piece of journalism, the result of months of investigation and withstanding the attentions of a private investigator hired by the government department to ID a whistle-blower.

- RADIO/AUDIO DOCUMENTARY / FEATURE / PODCAST OR SPECIAL

Hagar Cohen, *Background Briefing*, RN (["Left in Harm's Way"](#))

JUDGES COMMENTS: Hagar Cohen's "Left in Harm's Way" grabs the audience from the start, taking us inside a regional court and the terror endured by a family violence sufferer. Cohen's journalist radar was ahead of the curve on this topic, covering the consequences of government decisions to defund legal and other domestic violence services.

- BUSINESS JOURNALISM

Adele Ferguson, Sarah Danckert and Klaus Toft, *Four Corners*, ABC TV and Fairfax Media (["7-Eleven: The Price of Convenience"](#))

JUDGES COMMENTS: A forensic and explosive investigation exposing systemic wage-fraud and a broken franchise model by one of the world's biggest brands. Lifting the veil on blatant worker exploitation will have national benefits beyond 7-Eleven - richly rewarding the team's painstaking research and compelling storytelling.

- CAMERA WORK

Louie Eroglu, ABC News and *Four Corners*, ABC TV (["The Killing Season"](#) and ["The Great Cricket Coup"](#))

JUDGES COMMENTS: Louie Eroglu's modern filmic techniques demonstrates his story telling talents, injecting drama and emotion into the narrative. His brilliant lighting and framing made us feel as if we were watching a drama series rather than a retelling of domestic political events.

- TELEVISION/AUDIO VISUAL DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Matt Brown, Suzanne Dredge and Mat Marsic, 7.30, ABC TV (["Enslaved by Aussie Jihadis"](#))

JUDGES COMMENTS: As speculation swirled over Khaled Sharrouf and Mohamed Elomar's activities with Islamic State, the ABC team tracked down Yazidi women and verified their claims they had been held as sexual slaves by Sharrouf. More shocking than the Australian men's other reported war atrocities, the story revealed the utter moral degradation of a Sydney man extolled as a poster-boy by Jihadi recruiters.

- INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
Caro Meldrum-Hanna, Sam Clark and **Max Murch**, *Four Corners*, ABC TV
(["Making a Killing"](#))

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