

2015
ASTRA
AWARDS
20 years of subscription television

ASTRA Subscription
Media Australia

2015 ASTRA AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED

SKY NEWS is Channel of the Year

(Sydney, March 12, 2015): SKY NEWS has been named Channel of the Year at the 2015 ASTRA Awards for subscription television in Sydney tonight.

It is the second time the news channel has secured the coveted title, having won it previously in 2006.

“In selecting SKY NEWS as Channel of the Year, our independent judging panel noted that SKY NEWS has become the benchmark for political news coverage, becoming the first and most trusted source of political news and analysis in Australia,” ASTRA CEO Andrew Maiden said.

The Channel of the Year Award was one of 19 awards presented during the largest-ever ASTRA Awards ceremony, staged at The Star in Pyrmont and marking 20 years of subscription television.

SKY NEWS won three other 2015 ASTRA Awards, for Most Outstanding News Program (Paul Murray LIVE), Most Outstanding Presenter – Male (Paul Murray) and Most Outstanding Performance by a Broadcast Journalist (David Speers). It is David Speers' eighth ASTRA Award: the most ASTRA Awards to have been won by an individual. His awards have been in the categories Most Outstanding Performance by a Broadcast Journalist (2015, 2014, 2012, 2009) and Most Outstanding Performance by a Presenter (2011, 2008, 2007 and 2006). Although he has been nominated before, it is the first time Paul Murray has taken out the honours.

Foxtel's Executive Director of Television, Brian Walsh, was the recipient of a new special award: the Industry Contribution Award.

“Brian is a distinguished leader in the Australian television industry, responsible for launching the careers of many of Australia's best-known and most successful personalities. Fittingly, this recognition comes as the industry celebrates 20 years of achievement in 2015,” Andrew Maiden said.

Entertainment channel Arena won the Channel Achievement Award.

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“Arena has become an enormously popular channel and is a worthy recipient of the Channel Achievement Award, due to the success of shows like the local series, Real Housewives of Melbourne,” Mr Maiden said.

Nominees representing more than 30 Australian subscription television channels were shortlisted as finalists for the 2015 ASTRA Awards.

Drama winners included Wentworth on SoHo, which took out Most Outstanding Drama – Australian, with the prison series’ Danielle Cormack receiving the award for Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor – Female. Andrew McFarlane won the ASTRA Award for Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor – Male for his work in Devil’s Playground on showcase, with showcase stablemate Game of Thrones winning Most Outstanding Drama – International.

Sports winners included FOX SPORTS’ Kelli Underwood, who took out the ASTRA Award for Most Outstanding Presenter – Female, for her work on programs including Back Page LIVE and Breaking Ground. Most Outstanding Sports Program was FOX FOOTY’s Jeep Saturday LIVE on FOX, while season one of FOX8’s The Recruit won the award for Most Outstanding Reality Program.

Chef and restaurateur Matt Moran’s food odyssey, Paddock to Plate, on The LifeStyle Channel, won its second consecutive ASTRA Award for Most Outstanding Lifestyle Program. The first season of the show won the category last year, with the second season winning this year.

Phyllis Foundis, the creator and host of the men’s chat show Foundis, was named Most Outstanding New Talent. Phyllis Foundis crowd-funded the first season of her show, broadcast on community channel, Aurora.

“It’s a massive achievement, as this is the first year Aurora – which has been running for 10 years – has ever been nominated for an ASTRA Award,” Mr Maiden said.

“ASTRA congratulates our worthy winners and thanks them for their stellar contributions to Australian subscription television,” he said. “They’re making great TV for appreciative audiences around the country.”

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INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor – Female

Danielle Cormack (Wentworth, season 2: SoHo)

Most Outstanding Performance by an Actor – Male

Andrew McFarlane (Devil's Playground: showcase)

Most Outstanding Presenter – Female

Kelli Underwood (Back Page LIVE, Breaking Ground: FOX SPORTS)

Most Outstanding Presenter – Male

Paul Murray (Paul Murray LIVE: SKY NEWS)

Most Outstanding New Talent

Phyllis Foundis (Foundis: Aurora)

Most Outstanding Performance by a Broadcast Journalist

David Speers (PM Agenda, The Nation: SKY NEWS)

PROGRAM AWARDS

Most Outstanding Drama – Australian

Wentworth (season 2: SoHo)

Most Outstanding Drama – International

Game of Thrones (season 4: showcase)

Most Outstanding Children's Program

Monster Beach (Cartoon Network)

Most Outstanding Music Program

SLIMEFEST (Nickelodeon)

Most Outstanding Sports Program

Jeep Saturday LIVE on FOX (FOX FOOTY)

Most Outstanding News Program

Paul Murray LIVE (Paul Murray: SKY NEWS)

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Most Outstanding Reality Program

The Recruit (season 1: FOX8)

Most Outstanding Factual Program

Hillsborough (ESPN)

Most Outstanding Lifestyle Program

Paddock to Plate (Matt Moran; season 2: The LifeStyle Channel)

Most Outstanding General Entertainment Program

Top Gear (BBC Knowledge)

CHANNEL AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Industry Contribution Award

Brian Walsh

Channel Achievement Award

Arena

Channel of the Year

SKY NEWS

#ASTRAs

About the ASTRA Awards

The ASTRA Awards reward the creativity, diversity and quality of the Australian subscription television industry. A total of 18 awards recognise the most outstanding individuals and programs. Follow us on Twitter at @astraevent and on Facebook at [fb.com/astraawards](https://www.facebook.com/astraawards). For more information visit www.astra.org.au/awards

About ASTRA

ASTRA is the peak body representing nearly 30 organisations in the Australian subscription television industry. ASTRA members broadcast content to one in three Australians, invest more than \$600 million in local content, add nearly \$1.9 billion to the economy and create jobs for 6600 Australians. For more information visit www.astra.org.au.

For Red Carpet and Show Images, visit the Media Centre at eckfactor.com

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