

South Australia & Northern Territory Rural Media & Communicator Awards

Rural Journalist Awards - Terms & Conditions

Rural Journalist Award Categories:

- **Best Rural Journalist - Print**
- **Best Rural Journalist - Broadcast Audio/Radio**
- **Best Rural Journalist - Broadcast Video/ Television**
- **Best Rural Journalist - Broadcast Digital/Online**
- **Best Rural Journalist - Regional Print**
- **Best Royal Adelaide Show Story**

Additionally, there is a **Rural Journalist of the Year** awarded.

Overarching objectives of Rural Media & Communicator Awards

The objectives of the Rural Media & Communicators SA/NT Awards are to:

- Recognise a sustained commitment to rural journalistic, communication and photographic excellence;
- Encourage high professional standards among journalists, communicators and photographers who report on rural South Australia and the Northern Territory;
- Encourage metropolitan, regional and specialist media outlets to publish and broadcast material which promotes rural industries, people and issues;
- Encourage and provide professional development opportunities for emerging young rural journalists, photographers and communicators.

The Awards are an initiative of Rural Media & Communicators SA/NT and proudly supported by a range of sponsor organisations.

Rural Journalist Award Judging

A panel of four judges will assess each of the three-story entries on an equal basis.

Judging will be conducted in January/February 2027, with the award presentation at a special RMC SA/NT Awards function on Friday 12 February 2027.

The judging panel will present the Rural Journalist Awards to those individuals whose nominations, in the judges' opinion, demonstrate a sustained commitment to rural journalistic excellence and effort during the period covered by the Awards.

The judging panel will select the Rural Journalist of the Year from the winners of the five primary three-story Award categories. Please note that the emphasis is on rural rather than regional.

The judging panel's decision shall be final and no correspondence shall be entered into. RMC SA/NT reserves the right to present other certificates in addition to the major prizes.

The judges will select the best single story from print and broadcast categories that will then go on to the national ACAJ Star Prize competition; and then, if successful go onto the international IFAJ awards in 2027. The selected winning story may or may not come from the winning portfolio of three stories as stipulated for the RMC SA/NT Awards above.

Submission of Rural Journalist Entries

All entries must be uploaded to the Awards portal of the RMC SA/NT website with the relevant information including biographies, explanations and running sheets (where appropriate).

Print entries: The three-story entries must be provided as PDF files.

Broadcast Video/Television entries: The three-story entries must be available for viewing at nominated web addresses.

Broadcast Audio/Radio entries: The three-story entries must be available for audio replay at nominated web addresses.

Broadcast Digital/Online entries: The three-story entries must be easily viewed at nominated web addresses. Digital/Online entries must have been initially produced with the primary intent of being published/ broadcast in online format. **All stories entered in this category should include at least two of the following mediums: text, images, audio, video.**

Regional Print entries: The three-story entries must be provided as PDF files.

Best Royal Show Story entries: Individual entries must be provided as links or PDF files and must maintain a positive theme about the Royal Adelaide Show to be considered.

Television, radio and online nominations must be accompanied by a running sheet indicating the length and order of items.

Each story file must contain only the discrete story, not have the story part of a larger program or article. It is the duty of the entrant to edit stories out of larger programs prior to entry submission.

Terms and Conditions

Any journalist working in the print or electronic media who reports on rural issues in South Australia or Northern Territory is eligible to enter.

All material to be judged in the Awards must have been published or broadcast in South Australia or the Northern Territory between 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026.

The Rural Journalist of the Year will be selected from the winners of the five principal three-story Award categories. This person cannot enter the following year, but will be invited to join the Judging Panel.

Members of the judging panel and their families are ineligible to enter. All entries will remain the property of Rural Media & Communicators SA/NT (RMC SA/NT), which shall retain discretionary power over future use.

From the pool of all three-story entries, an individual story in each principal category (Print, Audio/Radio, Video/Television & Digital/Online) will be selected and submitted by RMC SA/NT as the South Australian entries in the national Star Prize awards convened by the Australian Council of Agricultural Journalists.

Entries must include:

- Three individual articles/items published or broadcast in the prescribed period. The articles/ items may be unrelated or form part of a series which examines a single rural topic or issue.
- Radio, Television and Online entries must be available for viewing or audio replay at nominated web addresses. Print entries must be provided as PDF files.
- A brief biography of the journalist, no more than 300 words.
- A brief explanation of no more than 300 words about the material submitted for the awards, including information such as why the entrant selected the articles/ items and their significance.
- Declaration, biography, running sheet and explanation.

Entries must also be accompanied by a declaration indicating:

- When the articles/items were published/broadcast.
- Where the articles/items were published/broadcast.

Entrants must be a current financial member of Rural Media & Communicators SA/NT to enter the Awards.

Entry criteria for 'Best Rural Journalist – Regional Print:

Entries will only be accepted from print journalists who reside in regional areas of South Australia or the Northern Territory and who report for regionally based print publications. This Award is not open to journalists who report for statewide, Territory wide, national or capital city based publications.

Entry Checklist:

Make sure your entry includes:

- A declaration indicating when the articles/ items were published/broadcast; and where the articles/ items were published/broadcast;
- A brief biography (no more than 300 words). A brief explanation (no more than 300 words) about the material submitted for the awards.
- Three individual articles/items published or broadcast between 1 January 2026 and 31 December 2026;
- Running sheet accompanying video/television, audio/radio and digital/online nominations, indicating the length and order of items;
- Audio/Radio, Video/Television and Digital/Online entries must be available for viewing or audio replay at nominated web addresses. Print entries must be provided as PDF files;
- Story files contain only the discrete story, not part of a larger program or article. It is the duty of the entrant to edit stories out of larger programs prior to entry submission.

Entries close at 10pm on Sunday 17 January 2027.