

2020 NZSA Business Journalism Awards

The NZSA Business Journalism Awards were established to encourage, identify and applaud outstanding business journalism in New Zealand. Journalists working in New Zealand's print, online and broadcasting media are encouraged to submit entries to three discipline categories

- News
- Feature
- Commentary

The winner of the supreme NZSA Business Journalist of the Year Award will be chosen from the winners of the three discipline categories.

- Rising Business Journalist Award. Journalists who enter in any of the discipline categories and who have been working as journalists for up to three years will, if they apply and provide additional supporting material, be considered for the Rising Business Journalist Award. Please note that previous winners of this award will not be eligible to enter again.

The closing date for entries in every category is 21 August 2020.

The 3 finalists in each category will be advised in mid-October.

Winners will be announced at the NZSA Beacon Award dinner in Auckland on 11 November 2020.

Stories must have been published or broadcast in the year from 1 Aug 2019 to 31 July 2020.

Award category winners will receive \$1,250. The Rising Journalist awardee will receive an additional \$1,000 and the Supreme Award Winner will receive an additional \$2,000.

Award categories and Judging Criteria

Business news

This category is for outstanding timely news coverage of a business, financial or economic news story. Entries submitted for this category can include a covering letter that showcases the dominance and timeliness of the story or stories. The letter can also, if appropriate, set out the circumstances under which the story was obtained and developed.

Business news judging will include the following criteria:

- Timeliness and relevance of the story
- Impact of the story on business or broader community
- Story presentation, quality of written/spoken content

- Journalistic initiative to obtain the story
- Adherence to journalistic principles and ethics
- Resources utilised by the reporter

Business features

Story published or broadcast in any medium that is compellingly told and crafted. They go beyond a news story and will provide context and depth to business story or issue, and will provide readers, listeners or viewers with a deeper understanding and explanation of a significant business topic.

Business feature judging will include the following criteria:

- Substance and relevance of the story
- Quality of writing and presentation
- Originality and impact of the story
- Depth of analysis and quality of research
- Resources used by journalist to file the story

Commentary

This category will include business, financial or economic editorials, columns, blogs, on-air or video commentary or analysis that assist the audience in developing their own informed opinions on the subject.

Business commentary judging will include the following criteria:

- Cogency of the argument
- Quality of writing and presentation
- Significance of the issue
- Effectiveness of generating debate on the issue
- Resources used by reporter (such as exclusivity and number of relevant sources)

Rising Business Journalist Award

Journalists who have worked less than three years and who submit stories to any or all categories will be considered for the Rising Business Journalist Award if they provide a short explanation of their employment history as proof of their eligibility and include a sampling of three other stories that are representative of their other body of work.

Business Journalist of the Year

The winner of this award will be chosen from the winners of the three journalistic discipline categories.

NZSA Business Journalism Awards Rules

1. The NZSA awards for business journalism excellence are open to journalists working for New Zealand media outlets. This can include freelance journalists.

2. Entries must be received by 5.00pm Friday 21 August 2020. Late entries cannot be considered. The awards will be announced at an evening function in Auckland on 11 November 2020. The three finalists in each category will be notified in mid-October and will be assisted to attend the event as guests of NZSA.

3. Entries must have been published or broadcast between 1 Aug 2019 and 31 July 2020.

4. Entries must fall into one of the three following categories:

- Business News
- Business Features
- Business Commentary

Eligible journalists can request that in addition, they be entered into the Rising Journalist award.

5. Journalists must submit their own entries and an official entry form must accompany each individual entry.

6. Entries must be the submitting journalist's own work. All submitted material must be accompanied by a declaration or proof of authorship.

7. All submitted material must be accompanied by proof of publication or broadcast.

8. Where an entry is the product of a team; names of the team, along with a brief explanation of the role played by each team member should be submitted. One team member should be nominated to receive the award if the entry is successful. Teams should not exceed five members.

9. Journalists may submit up to three entries in total. The same story cannot be entered in more than one category. To be clear, you may enter up to three different stories in a single category or one story in each category or any other combination so long as the total number of entries by a single journalist (or team where applicable) does not exceed three.

10. Entrants must declare any funding, travel or other consideration they received from other than their employer in the creation of the story. Sponsored content of an advertorial nature will not be eligible for entry.

11. Entries may be news, feature or commentary of a business, financial or economic nature. Each entry can consist of one or a series of articles, broadcasts or podcasts. Where a series is entered, it must consist of no more than three stories on the same topic and be submitted as a single entry.

12. Entries for each discipline category should be entered as a single discrete file. Where an entry is a series, all the parts submitted should be in one file.

13. Each entry should include an entry statement of no more than 300 words to explain the circumstances in which the entry was produced and why the entrant believes the story is worth submitting for the award.

14. Acceptable Formats

Written Work – The story may be supplied as a URL link provided it is NOT behind a paywall. Where a paywall is in place, the story must be supplied as a PDF. The applicable entry form and supporting information to be supplied as a PDF.

Sound – The story may be supplied as a URL link provided it is NOT behind a paywall or as an MP3 file. Where a paywall is in place, the story must be supplied as an MP3. The applicable entry form and supporting information to be supplied as a PDF.

Video – The story may be supplied as a URL link provided it is NOT behind a paywall or as an MP4 file. Where a paywall is in place, the story must be supplied as an MP4 file.

The applicable entry form and supporting information to be supplied as a PDF.

15. Prizes will be awarded to category winners, although the judges reserve the right to not award a prize in a given category in a given year.

16. Entrants agree to the reproduction of their entry for the purposes of judging and promotion of the awards. The judges award decisions are final. NZSA does not sit on the judging panel. All judges will provide a register of personal interests to NZSA to ensure against any conflicts of interest with the content of entries being judged.

17. Judges reserve the right to move entries into more appropriate categories if required in order to allow you the best chance by being in the right category.