

2026 NEW ZEALAND MEDIA AWARDS

AWARD	WINNER	ORGANISATION
Best Photography - Features	Richard Robinson	New Zealand Geographic / Kōwhai Media
Best Photography - News	Braden Fastier	Nelson Mail / Stuff Group
Best Photography - Sport	Hannah Peters	Getty Images
Best Photo Story	Richard Robinson: <i>Freshwater eels, our tuna</i>	New Zealand Geographic / Kōwhai Media
Photographer of the Year	Richard Robinson	New Zealand Geographic / Kōwhai Media
Best Innovation in Digital Storytelling	Kate Newton, Hingyi Khong: <i>Four phones, three weeks: Everything we saw on teen TikTok</i>	RNZ
Best Shortform Video	Tory Evans: <i>The Queen of Drag</i>	TVNZ
Best Current Affairs (short)	Paddy Gower: <i>Paddy Gower Has Issues – Bowel Cancer</i>	stuff.co.nz / Stuff Group
Best Current Affairs (long) or Documentary	Jack Tame and Team: <i>Interview with former Police Commissioner Andrew Coster</i>	Q+A with Jack Tame / TVNZ
Best Original Podcast or Series	Melanie Reid, Bonnie Sumner, Dave Filoialii, Judith Curran: <i>Diagnosis of a Crime</i>	newsroom.co.nz
Video Journalist of the Year	Zoe Madden-Smith	Re: News / TVNZ
Digital News Provider of the Year	stuff.co.nz — Stuff Group	
Best Columnist, Opinion or Critique	Virginia Fallon	The Post / Stuff Group
Best Up and Coming Journalist	Emma Andrews	RNZ
Best Investigation	Jared Savage: <i>Jevon McSkimming scandal</i>	NZ Herald / NZME
Best Scoop	Tony Wall: <i>Tom Phillips</i>	stuff.co.nz / Stuff Group
Best Specialist Reporting	Sam Sherwood – <i>Police / Law</i>	RNZ
Best Coverage of a Major News Event	<i>The end of the manhunt: Tom Phillips shooting</i>	stuff.co.nz / Stuff Group
Best Editorial Campaign or Project	<i>Fighting for our Med School</i>	Waikato Times / Stuff Group
Le Mana Pacific Award	Indira Stewart: <i>Polyfest: An Untold Story; NZ Kids Used in Sex Work; Charter School Hostile Takeover</i>	TVNZ
Te Tohu Kairangi Award	Aaron Smale	Whakaata Māori, RNZ, NZ Listener
Cartoonist/Animator of the Year	Sharon Murdoch	Stuff Group
Sports Journalist of the Year	Benjamin Plummer	NZ Herald / NZME
Business Journalist of the Year	Matt Nippert	NZ Herald / NZME
Gordon McLauchlan Journalism Award	Michael Wright	The Press / Stuff Group
Local Journalist of the Year	Jessica Roden	1News / TVNZ
News Journalist of the Year	Sam Sherwood	RNZ

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Political Journalist of the Year	Maiki Sherman	1News / TVNZ
Editorial Leader of the Year	Sarah Bristow	NZME
Best News, Current Affairs or Specialist Publication	The Spinoff	
Best Newspaper Magazine	Sunday – Rātāpu	Stuff Group
Best Up and Coming Feature Writer	Eva de Jong	NZME
Feature Writer of the Year	Catherine Woulfe	New Zealand Geographic / Kōwhai Media
Reporter of the Year	Sam Sherwood	RNZ
Community Newspaper of the Year	Ashburton Guardian	
Regional Newspaper of the Year	Rotorua Daily Post	NZME
Weekly Newspaper of the Year	Sunday Star-Times	Stuff Group
Metropolitan Newspaper of the Year	NZ Herald	NZME
Newspaper of the Year	Rotorua Daily Post	NZME

