



# ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended  
31 December 2003

# **MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB**

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# MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

Committee 2003

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- President:** Ian Henderson, ABC TV
- Vice Presidents:** Peter Bartlett, Minter Ellison  
Bob Kearsley, Channel 9
- Treasurer:** David Poulton, Minter Ellison
- Secretary:** Sue Henderson
- Committee:** Adrian Anderson, Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
(resigned Jan 2004)  
Eileen Berry, The Age  
Bill Birnbauer, The Age  
Sylvia Bradshaw, Leader Community Newspapers  
Genevieve Brammall, Herald Sun  
Rob Curtain, 3AW  
Michele Fonseca, ABC TV  
Linda Fuller, Channel 7  
(resigned October 2003)  
Melissa Fyfe, The Age  
Richard Leder, Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Keith Moor, Herald Sun  
Justin Quill, Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
(joined Feb 2004)  
John Rees, RACV  
Andrew Rule, The Age  
Mike Smith, Inside PR  
Karalee Tilvern, Channel 7  
(joined October 2003)  
John Trevorow, Herald Sun

# MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

## President's Report 2003

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It's my great pleasure to give an overview of the Melbourne Press Club's past year... and the prospects for the year ahead. However you choose to measure it, the club has enjoyed another very successful year. Membership is up to around 560. We've extended the number and range of our functions, our sponsorship base is rock solid and we've added another to our list, the Sensis award for Student Journalism.

2003 was also a time of considerable change for the club. Our General Manger Mary Cotter left us after several years of outstanding service, and President Neil Mitchell moved on after presiding over a period of record growth and consolidation for the club. Both contributed a lion-hearted effort, and on behalf of the club, I'd like to put on record our sincere appreciation.

Happily, there's been a smooth transition. Sue Henderson has settled in extremely well as General Manager, after six years with one of our major sponsors Smart Works. She and Sophie Gaylard have made a very capable and efficient team. I was honoured to be elected president last year, though Neil's are big shoes to fill. I will be standing again this year, though I believe that it's in the best interests of the club for the presidency to be shared around. I would expect to be handing over to a worthy successor this time next year.


Our mainstay events, the Quills, the annual journalism conference, and our program of lunches are now well-established. Over the past year, we've also made a concerted attempt to reach out to students and younger working journalists, through initiatives such as the Sensis award, the student stream at the conference, and our regular drinks nights. Several committee members also made themselves available as guest speakers at Deakin and RMIT universities.

We'll consolidate this effort during 2004 as well as launching some new strategic directions. We're currently working on finding a home for our "Hall of Fame"; refining ideas for a mid-career scholarship, and seeking to expand our list of member benefits.

None of this happens without a lot of hard work, and I'd like to thank this year's committee members whose energy and enthusiasm has been second to none. There was a lot of new blood this year... Sylvia Bradshaw, Genevieve Brammall, Michele Fonseca, Melissa Fyfe, Rob Curtain, Bill Birnbauer and Kiralee Tilvern. They made an immediate impact. There was a sharp spike in membership numbers and some great ideas for new functions, most notably this year's Journalists' Ball.

Thanks too to all our sponsors, most of whom have now been with us for a number of years. We do value long-term relationships. I was particularly pleased to welcome Leader Newspapers to our sponsors' list this year. Our media sponsors are the club's heart and soul, and most media organisations are now solidly behind us.

There's a lot to look forward to in the year ahead with the tenth anniversary of the Quill awards next March, and another sensational conference agenda taking shape for late October. I recommend all these activities to you, our members, and thank you for your ongoing support. We couldn't do it without you.



**Ian Henderson**  
President

# MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

## Treasurer's Report

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2003 was another year of solid financial performance for the Melbourne Press Club.

The highlights of financial performance included:

- Sponsorship revenue continued at a healthy level of \$257,500 (up from \$223,818 in 2002).
- Membership revenue again increased steadily, from \$16,774 in 2002 to \$18,035 in 2003.
- Total revenue increased by 7% to \$382,597, up from \$356,509 in 2002.
- Total costs increased to a greater extent, from \$323,168 in 2002 to \$369,465 in 2003.
- Some of the increased costs arose from timing issues, but increases in the costs associated with functions (such as travel expenses) also contributed.
- Expenses were nevertheless well contained and the Club posted a net operating profit in 2003 of \$13,132.
- Bank balance of \$88,966 as at 31 December 2003.

### **Achievements in 2003**

The Club in 2003 continued to improve the professionalism of its administration systems. Towards the end of the year new computers and software were purchased (Note - these expenses will appear in the 2004 accounts), enabling our secretariat to better manage accounting records, the membership database, and the organisation of functions.

During 2003 we farewelled our General Manager, Mary Cotter due to her family's move interstate, but made a smooth transition to our new General Manager and Secretary, Sue Henderson.

Sue was well supported by our Assistant Manager, Sophie Gaylard and our independent account continued to oversee payroll transactions, GST accounting, and our ongoing financial reports.

We have continued to observe the procedures required by our Auditors to ensure that accounting and association standards are met.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Auditors, BDO for their excellent and efficient service.

Date: 26 May 2004

**David Poulton**  
**Treasurer**  
**Melbourne Press Club**

# MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

## General Manager's Report 2003

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2003 was a big year for the Club. After 5 years as General Manager Mary Cotter resigned to move to Sydney. I took over the reins in early March, just in time to help out with the 2002 Quill Awards Dinner that was held at the Grand Hyatt on 12 March. It was a great night with a record number of entries and guests. Most agree that the guest speaker Laurie Oakes delivered one of the best Quills speeches to date.

It was a busy year from then on with a healthy program of luncheons, social activities and other functions. Lunch guests included Richard Alston, The Coodabeen Champions, Geoffrey Robertson, Iraq War Correspondents, Graeme Samuel, Andrew Wilkie, Greg Roberts and Sunil Gavaskar.

Other functions included the Public War Forum held in association with The Age at the Melbourne Town Hall, a day at the Healesville Races, our Annual Trivia Night hosted by trivia whiz David Poulton and several informal get-togethers with the Media Mums, cadet journalists and journalism students.

One of the highlights of the year was the 2003 Journalism Conference that was held on 17 October at the Iwaki Auditorium and CUB Malthouse. The Conference, sponsored by The Age and supported the ABC, attracted an audience of 400 including journalists and students. The Keynote speakers were UK columnist and broadcaster Amanda Platell and US plagiarism expert John Barrie. Other highlights were Paul McGeough who joined us live by satellite from New York and Mark Day's Hypothetical. There were also sessions on the war in Iraq, crime, career paths and sports reporting.

One of the club's main focuses for the year was students and young journalists. To encourage them to attend our luncheons we introduced the 'student sandwich lunch' and we organised a number of drinks evenings at the Golden Gate Hotel in South Melbourne. The placement of our noticeboards at university campuses and news organizations helped to further encourage their attendance and membership.

The Club is staffed by myself and Assistant Manager, Sophie Gaylard. Both Sophie and I are contracted to work a 4-day week. During busy periods we work extra days and employ casual staff to help out. The secretariat is housed at the Minters Ellison offices in the Rialto Towers. We are particularly grateful to Minters for providing office premises and support. I would also like to thank Smart Works who now look after our IT and graphic design and BDO who once again, has produced the Financial Report. My thanks also to all the other sponsors – I am very grateful for your help and assistance.

I would also like to thank all the committee members for their tireless enthusiasm and input, in particular Mike Smith and David for their administrative support on a daily basis. It's been a great year and a pleasure getting to know everyone involved with the Club. I look forward to the year ahead.

**Sue Henderson**  
**General Manager**

# MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

## Functions Calendar 2003

	LUNCH/DINNER	FORUM	SOCIAL EVENT
<b>February</b>	Richard Alston lunch Medallion Club 20.02.03		
<b>March</b>	Quill Awards dinner Grand Hyatt 14.03.03 Coodabeens' lunch Medallion Club 28.03.03	Public War Forum Melbourne Town Hall 18.03.03	Sponsor Cocktail party Minter Ellison offices 12.02.03
<b>April</b>	Geoffrey Robertson lunch Medallion Club 16.04.03		Healesville Races 5.04.03
<b>May</b>	Peter Foster - cancelled 21.05.03 AGM RACV Club 28.05.05		Neil's farewell dinner (committee only) The Fed@NGV 30.05.04
<b>June</b>	Working in a War Zone Medallion Club 20.06.03		
<b>July</b>	Graeme Samuel Medallion Club 18.07.03 Andrew Wilkie Medallion Club 31.07.03		
<b>August</b>	Greg Roberts Medallion Club 27.08.03		Trivia Night Golden Gate Hotel 22.08.03
<b>September</b>			Millennium Journos' Drinks Golden Gate Hotel 25.09.03 Media Mums Film morning Cinema Nova 24.09.04
<b>October</b>	Journalism 2003 Conference Iwali Auditorium & CUB Malthouse 17.10.03		Conference Keynote Dinner Donovans 16.10.03
<b>November</b>			
<b>December</b>	Sunil Gavaskar Medallion Club 1.12.03		Christmas Drinks Golden Gate Hotel 11.12.03 Christmas Dinner Young & Jackson (committee only) 4.12.03

# MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

Melbourne Press Club Quill Awards 2003

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**The Gold Quill**

**Julie-Anne Davies & Steve Waldon** The Age

**The Graham Perkin Award for the Australian Journalist of the Year**

**Peter Wilson** The Australian

**The Grant Hattam Award**

**Paul Moran** ABC TV

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Claude Forell** The Age

**Young Journalist of the Year Award**

**Mandi Zonneveldt** Herald Sun

**RACV Transport Quill**

**Nick Papps** Herald Sun

**Best Columnist**

**George Megalogenis** The Australian

**Best Sports Story in any Medium**

**Caroline Wilson** The Age

**Best Business Story in any Medium**

**Adele Ferguson** Business Review Weekly

**Best TV Camerawork in News and Current Affairs**

**Mark Doberer & Ivan Dodin** Inside Business, ABC TV

**Best News Photograph**

**Heath Missen** The Age

**Best Sports Photograph**

**Michael Dodge** Herald Sun

**Best Features Photograph**

**Simon Schluter** The Age

**Best Three Headlines in any Medium**

**Gary McGregor** MX Newspaper

**Best Page Layout**

**Warwick McFadyen** The Sunday Age

**Best Illustration in any Medium**

**Mick Connolly** The Age

**Best Cartoon**

**Peter Nicholson** The Australian



# MELBOURNE PRESS CLUB

Continued... Melbourne Press Club Quill Awards 2003

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**Best Deadline Report in any Medium**

**Brendan Nicholson** The Age

**Best Investigative Report in any Medium**

**Cameron Stewart & Martin Chulov** The Australian

**Best On-line Report**

**Simon Johanson & Hugh J Martin** The Age

**Best Suburban or Regional Report in any Medium**

**Editorial Team** Pakenham Gazette

**Best Rural Affairs Report in any Medium**

**Belinda Hawkins & Mara Blazic** Australian Story, ABC TV

**Best TV News Report**

**Rebecca Maddern** Channel 7

**Best Radio News Report**

**Paul Bentley** 3AW

**Best TV Current Affairs Report**

**Josephine Cafagna & Peter Drought** Stateline, ABC TV

**Best Radio Current Affairs Report**

**Neil Mitchell** 3AW

**Best News Report in Print**

**Gerard McManus, Jason Frenkel & Michael Harvey** Herald Sun

**Best Feature in Print**

**Julie-Anne Davies & Steve Waldon** The Age