

# FCJ Excellence Awards 2017: Winners announced!

The winners of the 2017 Forum of Community Journalists' Excellence Awards were announced at a glamorous event on Friday, 29 June at the Leriba Hotel and Spa in Centurion.



The Forum of Community Journalists (FCJ) bestowed honorary life membership of the FCJ on Joe Thlooe, chairperson of the judging panel of the FCJ Excellence Awards. Here Thlooe receives a gift from Hugo Redelinghuys (executive director of the FCJ) to mark the occasion.

The awards have been presented under the auspices of the Forum of Community Journalists (FCJ) for over two decades now and are widely considered as the “Oscars” of the local and community media industry.

At the FCJ Excellence Awards local and community newspapers from all over the country and across all media houses compete against each other to award the best of the best in South Africa.

In the judges' report they state the following: Our general impression is that the local newspapers are still very much alive in South Africa. They are indeed serving their communities very well.

The awards recognised work published in 2017.

## Winners

### Photography

#### General

1. Zita Goldswain, *Witbank News*
2. Selogile Leshage, *Potchefstroom Herald*
3. Lazarus Dithagiso, *Sedibeng Ster*
4. Carina Roux, *TygerBurger*
5. Elsje Vermeulen, *Vaalweekblad*
6. Devidean Moses, *Paarl Post*
7. Isabel Venter, *Zoutpansberger*
8. Marguerite Vermeulen, *Vrystaat News*
9. Ettienne van Rensburg, *Vaalweekblad*
10. Hugo Redelinghuys, *George Herald*

## **News**

1. Jannie du Plessis, *Vaalweekblad*
2. Zita Goldswain, *Witbank News*
3. Elsje Vermeulen, *Vaalweekblad*
4. Zita Goldswain, *Witbank News*
5. Isabel Venter, *Zoutpansberger*
6. Ronald Sibiya, *Pretoria Rekord*
7. Samantha Traill, *Witbank News*

## **Sport**

1. Ettienne van Rensburg, *Vaalweekblad*
2. Stefan de Villiers, *Lowvelder/Nelspruit Post*
3. Ronald Sibiya, *Pretoria Rekord*
4. Carina Roux, *TygerBurger*
5. Hugo Redelinghuys, *George Herald*
6. Isabel Venter, *Zoutpansberger*
7. Joe Dreyer, *Far North Bulletin*
8. Zita Goldswain, *Witbank News*
9. Wouter Pienaar, *Potchefstroom Herald*
10. Herman Steyn, *Die Pos*

## **Photographer of the Year**

1. Elsje Vermeulen, *Vaalweekblad*
2. Ettienne van Rensburg, *Vaalweekblad*
3. Isabel Venter, *Zoutpansberger*
4. Ronald Sibiya, *Pretoria Rekord*
5. Zita Goldswain, *Witbank News*

## **Writing**

### **Digital reporting**

- Jana Boshoff, *Middelburg Observer*

### **Headlines**

- Keina Swart, *Die Pos*
- Hedda Mittner, *The Village News*
- Ettienne van Rensburg, *Vaalweekblad*

*In top eight:*

Johnny Masilela, *The Beat*

Madré Marais, *Kalahari Bulletin*

Pieter Delport, *Bloemfontein Courant*

Roelien Vorster, *Roodepoort Northsider*

Wouter Pienaar, *Potchefstroom Herald*

**Editorial comment**

1. Marlene Jordaan, *Worcester Standard*
2. Lerato Serero, *Sedibeng Ster*
3. Tobie van den Bergh, *Middelburg Observer*

*In top seven:*

Danie Keet, *Eikestadnuus*

Hennie Stander, *Potchefstroom Herald*

Lise Beyers, *Paarl Post*

Tasmin Cupido, *District Mail*

**Columns**

1. Riaan van Zyl, *Roodepoort Record*
2. Murray Stewart, *The Village News*
3. Zita Goldswain, *Witbank News*

*In top ten:*

Cornelia Carstens, *Mosselbaai Advertiser*

Jan-Hendrik Coetzer, *Hermanus Times*

Johnny Masilela, *Die Pos*

Marlene Jordaan, *Worcester Standard*

Michelle van der Spuy, *Eikestadnuus*

Raymond Willemse, *District Mail*

Tobie van den Bergh, *Middelburg Observer*

**Sport**

1. Johann Gresse, *Middelburg Observer*
2. Hugo Redelinghuys, *George Herald*
3. David Rush, *South Coast Herald*

*In top ten:*

Carli Koch, *Lowvelder*

Earl Haupt, *People's Post*

Ettienne van Rensburg, *Vaalweekblad*

Joe Dreyer, *Far North Bulletin*

Raymond Willemse, *District Mail*

Tandy-Lee Marinus, *Paarl Post/Worcester Standard*

Wouter Pienaar, *Potchefstroom Herald*

## **Human interest**

1. Desirée Rorke, *TygerBurger*
2. Carina Roux, *TygerBurger*
3. Andries van Zyl, *Zoutpansberger*

### **In top ten:**

Alida Buckle, *Weslander*

Bianca du Plessis, *Hermanus Times*

Lauren O'Connor May, *Northern News*

Lise Beyers, *Paarl Post*

Nadine Williams, *Eikestadnuus*

Nielen de Klerk, *TygerBurger*

Tshifhiwa Mukwevho, *Limpopo Mirror*

## **Investigative reporting**

1. Anton van Zyl, *Zoutpansberger*
2. Riaan van Zyl, *Roodepoort Record*
3. Dustin Wetdewich, *Potchefstroom Herald*

### **In top four:**

Andries van Zyl, *Zoutpansberger*

## **Hard news**

1. Dustin Wetdewich, *Potchefstroom Herald*
2. Gerhard Rheeder, *Middelburg Observer*
3. Elmon Tshikhudo, *Limpopo Mirror*

### **In top twelve:**

Alida Buckle, *Weslander*

Andries van Zyl, *Zoutpansberger*

Hazel Allies-Husselman, *Athlone News*

Karen Watkins, *Constantia Bulletin*

Ronél van Jaarsveld, *Die Pos*

Samantha Lee, *People's Post*

Tamlynne Thompson, *The CapeTowner*

Trish Goosen, *Weslander*

Yolande du Preez, *False Bay Echo*

## **Alet Roux Award**

*It is awarded to the best newcomer - a journalist with less than three years' experience.*

1. Marianke Saayman, *Potchefstroom Herald*
2. Selogile Leshage, *Potchefstroom Herald*
3. Carina Roux (*TygerBurger*) and Tamsyn Jantjies (*District Mail*)

## **Journalist of the Year**

1. Zita Goldswain, *Witbank News*

2. Trish Goosen, *Weslander*
3. Lise Beyers, *Paarl Post*

In top ten:

Andries van Zyl, *Zoutpansberger*  
Bianca du Plessis, *Hermanus Times*  
Dustin Wetdewich, *Potchefstroom Herald*  
Jamey Gordon, *District Mail*  
Joe Dreyer, *Far North Bulletin*  
Marianke Saayman, *Potchefstroom Herald*  
Tamlynne Thompson, *The CapeTowner*

**Newspapers**

**Front pages**

**Independent commercial newspapers**

1. No award
2. *The Village News*
3. *Zoutpanberger*

**Corporate-owned free newspapers**

1. *TygerBurger*
2. *Roodepoort Northsider*
3. *People's Post*

**Corporate-owned paid newspapers**

1. *Die Pos*
2. *Paarl Post*
3. *District Mail*

**Newspaper of the year**

**Independent commercial newspapers**

1. *The Village News*
2. *Zoutpansberger*
3. *Limpopo Mirror*

**Corporate-owned free newspapers**

1. *Roodepoort Northsider*
2. *TygerBurger*
3. *Pretoria Rekord*

**Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation less than 10,000**

**– Hultzer trophy**

1. *District Mail*
2. *Potchefstroom Herald*
3. *Mossel Bay Advertiser*

**Corporate-owned paid newspapers, circulation more than 10,000**

**– Cronwright Trophy**

1. *Lowvelder*
2. *Middelburg Observer*
3. *Paarl Post*

The FCJ congratulates all the winners on a job well done and looks forward to next year's competition and entries.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>