

2025 Brian Johns Lecture



MACQUARIE
University

Kate McClymont | Investigative Journalist | Sydney Morning Herald



Kate McClymont is an investigative journalist with the *Sydney Morning Herald*. She is a ten-time winner of journalism's most prestigious award, the Walkley, including the Gold Walkley. She is the recipient of numerous other awards including eight Kennedy Awards, the 2012 NSW Journalist of the Year award, the Australian Shareholders' Association award for excellence in financial reporting (1992), The NSW's Law Society's Golden Quill award for excellence in legal reporting (1990 and 1992), the 2012 George Munster Award for Independent Journalism, and the 2022 Citi Journalism Award for business reporting.

In 2017 she was inducted into the Media Hall of Fame for her contribution to the industry.

In 2020 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her services to the print media and investigative journalism. Kate's lifetime contribution to the media industry was recognised by the Walkley Award for Outstanding Contribution to Journalism in 2023.

Abstract

"Democracy's Detectives: Investigative Journalism and the Importance of Never Turning a Blind Eye"

Investigative journalists have been called 'Democracy's Detectives', because by uncovering issues - ranging from serious fraud, political corruption, environmental pollution to medical malpractice - they hold people to account, and help inform the community to enable them to make informed decisions. To provide checks on power in society, investigative journalism has to operate without fear or favour. This is not always as easy as it sounds.