

media release

Australian Broadcasting Corporation



EMBARGOED RELEASE UNTIL 13 November 2009

2009 HEYWIRE Winners Announced

The 2009 winners of ABC Radio's regional youth initiative Heywire were announced today.

Now in its twelfth year, Heywire is an online platform for creative young leaders from rural, regional and remote Australia to create, blog and share their stories.

The 38 Heywire winners will have their stories told on ABC Radio and online at abc.net.au/heywire. They will also travel to Canberra in February 2010 for the Heywire Forum at the Australian Institute of Sport.

The Heywire Forum is a chance for the winners to work together developing outstanding ideas and proposals that will create positive change in their communities. As part of this focus, the winners participate in mentoring, training, networking, skill building and learning activities during the week, and will have the chance to meet members of parliament, government and leaders from across the Australian youth sector and the ABC.

"Heywire celebrates the diversity, passion, humour and hard-edged reality of young people in regional Australia, using the full range of digital storytelling techniques. Our Heywirers come from far and wide across Australia, from places as diverse as Tennant Creek (NT), Mullaway (NSW), Aurukun (QLD), Renmark (SA) and Esperance (WA)," says Tony Rasmussen, Manager Regional Local Radio.

"We are very excited that many young people, often from the most remote and isolated parts of our country, can connect with each other and share their dreams, opinions and ideas through Heywire."

The Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry said of his department's and the government's support for Heywire, "... we are proud to continue to be associated with this unique and innovative youth participation project. This year hundreds of young people from across Australia have shared their stories through the Heywire website. I have been impressed with the creativity and connectedness our 2009 winners have brought to the project and I look forward to meeting them in Canberra and hearing more about their work from the Youth Issues Forum."

Over the past twelve years over 7000 young Australians have shared their stories with Heywire. In 2009, Heywire is a website open all year for submissions. Young people can create their own Heywire profile page and network with other Heywirers from across Australia; upload their video, audio, text and photo entries live to the site; and comment on other entries and leave their own thoughts and comments.

A full list of winners including the winning story themes follows.

Heywire acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation; the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

Heywire website - abc.net.au/heywire

For more information, please contact:

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2009 HEYWIRE Winners

	Winners Name	Home Town	Age	Story Summary
ACT	William Barron	Canberra	16	A horrifying accident on the farm brings home the truth on safety
NSW	Kate Pitsis	Mullaway	17	Making a difference with her own company dedicated to empowering young women
NSW	Kristen Heal	Bingara	17	Bright lights and big city pale into comparison with the reality of life on a family farm
NSW	Finbah Neill	Grafton	16	A portrait of a perfectly normal day passing before the camera lens
NSW	Ashlea Cook	The Rock	17	Living through, then dealing with your parents' divorce and how that affects your life
NSW	Tamika Townsend	Toothdale	18	An Aboriginal woman meditates on the suffering of her Uncle battling with the past and the future
NSW	Leesa Hamilton	Panuara	21	The city versus country divide: as seen from a jogger pounding the footpaths between the two
NSW	Kaitlin Watts	Kincumber	18	A profile of June Dally-Watkins: from 50s model and glamour girl to 21st century businesswoman
NSW	Shannon Douglas	Cessnock	16	A hilarious Gen Y take on that most famous adage: 'What is wrong with kids these days?'
NSW	Hannah Muscat	Broken Hill	16	A stark reminder of the dangers for young people skylarking in cars in rural Australia
NSW	Chantelle Sobczyk	Bathurst	22	A call for Gen Y to step up and get involved in the volunteer fire brigades
NT	Sean Fitzpatrick	Tennant Creek	17	A 21st century multimedia story taking you out to sea on a traditional Aboriginal dugong hunt
NT	Rebecca Stirk	Alice Springs	16	Outrageous hope and courage in the face of life-threatening paralysis and spinal surgery
NT	Braeden Stubbs	Katherine	18	Living the life of a teenage outback rodeo rider
NT	Luke Morrison	Alroy Downs	16	The nexus of modern life and the Dreaming, east of Three Ways Roadhouse
QLD	Mereani Savuro	Mount Isa	17	Life in Doomadgee and the journey to become a nurse, helping the community
QLD	Gary Cahill	Mooloolaba	18	From teenage indecision to plunging into the beginnings of a career in agricultural science
QLD	Robert Graves	Aurukun	21	The experiences of a whitefella on Dreamtime land, 2000km from home in a closed community
QLD	Jane Ryder	Townsville	20	A song about the love for a grandmother and the pain of time running out for getting to know her
QLD	Madison Stutynski	Mackay	18	The reality of violence amongst young girls

	Winners Name	Home Town	Age	Story Summary
SA	Justin Victor	Renmark	16	A tale of a secret spot overlooking the Murray
SA	Jordan Babolka	Mt Gambier	16	A video/photo essay on the joys of rural living
SA	Matt Porter	Port Lincoln	17	The unforgettable experience of South Australia's Black Saturday
SA	Sam Nicholls	Port Pirie	18	A video entry profiling skateboard culture in rural Australia
TAS	Michael Blake	Sorell	20	The whimsy of small town life and being the fourth person called 'Blakey' in your family
TAS	Tayla King	Pipers River	16	A poem about travelling from Tasmania to Europe for a gap year
TAS	Rachel Morris	King Island	16	Life on a tiny island with Australia's purest water, richest cream and just one school
VIC	Freya Flavell	Castlemaine	17	A day in the city and a night on the town in rural Victoria
VIC	Jack Hegarty	Traralgon	19	Growing up gay in a small country town, and becoming a young leader helping others
VIC	Ellen Hayden	Piangil	17	From a tiny town in rural Victoria to Helsinki, Finland; what is it you miss about flies and dust?
VIC	Kerry O'Shea	Port Campbell	17	Breaking your neck at the swimming pool - and the comeback: swimming the English Channel
VIC	Amy Rhodes	Concongella	23	Battling the new trend: country bashing
VIC	Matilda Marozzi	Coimadai	16	An unexpected brush with mortality leads to deeper thinking on how lucky we are
VIC	Clare Winter-Irving	Nagambie	16	A country town has very few secrets
WA	Caitlin Morrison	Derby	17	A traditional welcome to country is returned by students offering respect and reconciliation
WA	Laura Bairstow	Dumblebung	19	An astounding multimedia story of survival and of rising above life's pitfalls and burdens
WA	Bonnie Hargreaves	Binningup	17	What it's like to be in favour of a desalination plant in a small coastal town
WA	Rosemary Henderson	Esperance	20	The pros and cons of small town life - caste, class and the power of community

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