

Media Release 4th April 2006

\$10,000 Scholarship Awarded to Bendigo Business Woman

On Saturday the 1st April at 8.45pm at the Coogee Bay Crown Plaza in Sydney, Jennifer Harwood was awarded the inaugural Kerrie Nairn Scholarship for Public Speaking. The award was provided by the National Speakers Association of Australia and funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training.

(See the photo from the award ceremony - the people in it are as follows) The award was introduced by Gary Nairn, Federal Member for Eden-Monaro and presented by Dr Brendan Nelson, MP, Federal Member for Bradfield, and Minister for Defence.

The Kerrie Nairn Scholarship for Public Speaking

The Kerrie Nairn Scholarship for Public Speaking awarded by the National Speakers Association of Australia and funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training.

The Scholarship provides monetary support to further a public speaker's skill and knowledge in public speaking. The Scholarship will enable the recipient to become a better professional speaker and to assist senior students develop their public speaking skills through the program of national activities such as the National Schools Constitutional Convention and Celebrating Democracy Week. The Scholarship is open to applicants who are currently working, full time or part-time as public speakers and is worth up to \$10,000 to fund expenses such as travel costs, course fees, study tours etc.

About Kerrie Nairn

Kerrie died on May 26 2005 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Her involvement with, and passion, for the professional speaking world began in the mid-90's in Darwin. Kerrie, who had already developed an award winning business software consultancy in Darwin, joined NSAA in 1995 and became a professional speaker. She quickly earned the designation Accredited Speaking Member.

With her extensive business experience, entrepreneurial flair, and enviable abilities as a wordsmith, Kerrie built her speaking career and spoke to audiences everywhere on her specialist topic: Business Creativity. Her book "Up for Grabs: Capture your Winning Market Edge through Creativity" has sold over 2,000 copies.

Later in her speaking career Kerrie specialised as an MC. Her incredible 'calm and in control' persona was backed with in-depth preparation and research for every event and project she was involved with. She had a wonderful resonant voice, a clever sense of humour, an ability to craft spontaneous situational poetry and a quick-wittedness that defined her style.

Kerrie developed a brilliant hypothetical program called 'Business Story'. She moderated these hypotheticals as business theatre with rhyming verse. They were provocative, funny, and poignant at times, delivering powerful business insights and messages.

In addition to her speaking and MC work, Kerrie participated at the highest level in the NSAA. She was a member of the National Board, twice the ACT chapter president and was the lynchpin between NSAA activities in the ACT and NSW. One of Kerrie's most outstanding contributions was as Convenor of the 10th NSAA National Convention in Canberra in 2000, a wonderful Convention that culminated in a magical evening at Parliament House for the National Convention Dinner and Awards ceremony.

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About Jennifer Harwood

Jennifer is the Managing Director of Direct Incite Pty Ltd - a successful business consulting and coaching company. She founded the company 7 years ago in Sydney at the age of 29 with the vision and passion of making a difference to Australian small and growing businesses. In November 2004, Jennifer relocated the head office of the company to Bendigo as she wanted to be true to her business philosophy of managing the family/business balance.

Jennifer's role with her clients is "Business Growth Coach and Motivational Speaker". Her business skills are first class and speaking very motivational. Since being in Bendigo, Jennifer's motivational speaking career has gone to the next level with her delivering many Keynote Addresses to National Conferences around the country and she has also delivered numerous tailored workshops in regional Victoria and New South Wales on business growth.

Comments directly from Jennifer's Scholarship Application.

Over the last 16 years of my working career, I have come to understand that I love public speaking and that I could be one of the world's best. I have had no formal speaking training and have developed my own style that seems to be effective. However, when I saw a video of a Keynote Address I did in July last year I nearly died in shock. I thought I had been as good as my Australian public speaking masters - Ron Tacchi, Cathering Palin Brinkworth and Robyn Henderson !! Little did I know...

I am very fortunate that my clients I have spoken for over the years have been more than delighted with the results I have delivered. That said, I want to give my clients and their audiences the very best speaking performance every time.

This scholarship is an opportunity for me to be trained by the best so that I can represent Australia business and women in business globally. I am totally open and willing to being coached and trained by the masters. I realise I need the right tools (laptop and PowerPoint presentations), discipline in content preparation (as all of my presentations are tailored for the client) and also supported with wardrobe, image and style. There is also an Australian inflection in my voice that is distracting and if I am going to be successful internationally I also require coaching in voice techniques from the best.

This scholarship would contribute to my commitment to excellence and continual improvement. There are only a few young professional speakers in the Australian business sector and many do not focus on small & family businesses. I am getting more requests every month to speak and I want to provide a first class performance and deliver value. I also want to contribute to the speaking industry by being professional, dynamic and inspiring. This scholarship would give me the support to make that a reality.

For further information contact:

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