

Hayley wins State cadet award

MANNING River Times cadet journalist and former Chatham High captain, Hayley Williams has been named the 2011 Pat Riggs Memorial Cadet Journalist of the Year.

The state-wide award was presented by Pat's sister Joan Doooley and Terry Hunt, trustee of the Shirley Patricia Riggs Endowment Trust set up to sponsor the award. Joan and Terry travelled to Taree this week to present Hayley with the award.

The award has been set up in honour of the former editor of the Macleay Argus at Kempsey, Pat Riggs. Terry, a director of Akubra Hats, met Pat when the company announced it was decentralising to Kempsey in the 1970s.

Pat came late to journalism, taking on her cadetship at the age of 34. She had a passion for teaching young journalists and also a 'wicked' sense of humour, as her sister recalled this week.

Pat is 'infamous' for her 1969 April Fools Day prank carried out with the help of a local radio station, that announced a Russian merchant fleet had streamed into Trial Bay seeking asylum.

A morning tea was held at the Times to celebrate Hayley's award.



Cadet of the year, Hayley Williams (centre) with Terry Hunt from the Pat Riggs trust, Times manager and NSW Country Press councillor John Bulmer, Pat's twin sister Joan Doooley and Times editor Toni Bell.

Present were Times manager, John Bulmer who is also a councillor on the NSW Country Press

Association and editor, Toni Bell. Hayley is currently on maternity leave.

She and her partner Steve Sansom celebrated the birth of daughter Eva Grace last month.