

'Traditional' media sweeps SA Blog Awards

 By [Simone Puterman](#)

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The fourth annual South African Blog Awards were held last night, Wednesday, 2 April 2008, in Cape Town and for the first time, traditional media - albeit those publishers embracing new media - pretty much swept the board. Dominating eight of the 22 categories were East Coast Radio and the *Mail & Guardian Online*. [Video]

Comments Matthew Buckland, GM of the *M&G Online*, "We are honoured to have picked up four awards, including the coveted 'SA Blog of the year' for Thought Leader. It's an award for all our very special Thought Leader contributors and readers who have contributed more than 3 million words to the site over the past six months of the site's short existence. It is certainly a sign that Thought Leader has become accepted as a premier destination for opinion and comment in this country.

"Personally, I'm honoured to have picked up the best business blog award for my namesake blog, [matthewbuckland.com](#). It makes all the hard work and effort, especially those late night blogging sessions, all the more worthwhile."

"We are just so proud of our talent," says Trish Taylor, MD of East Coast Radio. "They continue to demonstrate that radio has new relevancy and new life in this multimedia world we are living in and rather than preach about theory, East Coast Radio people are putting it into practice and being recognised for it, and winning audience as a result.

"Our blogs and podcasting over the last year and half have added a whole new level of interaction and accessibility to our audience. When we had the big waves that pounded our coastline last year, residents turned to our website and blogs to keep them up-to-date hour by hour. Traditional media like print and even traditional radio for that matter, had a hard time keeping pace with the story - but our team managed it with ease, offering reporting, photos (many from residents) and video from the scene."

Anice Hassim, head strategist of immedia, the consultancy responsible for ECR's digital strategy adds, "It is really obvious in hindsight that radio and online synergise so well together, given their complementary nature and immediacy of both media. It wasn't at all obvious when ECR embarked on this journey several years ago."

The winners are:

“ **South African Weblog of the Year** *The Best of the Best from South Africa*

Winner: www.thoughtleader.co.za [an M&G Online product]

Most Humorous South African Blog

Witty, comical and written to induce uncontrollable laughter

Winner: <http://blog.ecr.co.za/breakfast>

Best Overseas South African Blog

Best blog written by a South African in any foreign country

Winner: <http://cooksister.typepad.com>

Best SA Blog about Politics

The best SA blog featuring mainly a political theme

Winner: www.thoughtleader.co.za [an M&G Online product]

Best New Blog

Best blog which was started during the year of 2007

Winner: <http://blog.ecr.co.za/newswatch>

Best SA Blog about Technology / Computers / Web Development

Best South African technology focused weblog

Winner: <http://imod.co.za>

Best SA Blog about Design

Best overall design and layout of a weblog page

Winner: www.skinnylaminx.com

Best SA Business Blog

Best blog about business

Winner: www.matthewbuckland.com [GM of the M&G Online]

Runner up: [Bizcommunity.com](http://bizcommunity.com) Breaking News blog

Best Website Promoting Blogging

Best South African blog content promotion service or blogging platform

Winner: www.amatomu.com [an M&G Online product]

Best Green Blog

Weblog covering mainly environmental, organic or enviro-friendly related content

Winner: <http://urbansprout.co.za>

Best Undiscovered Blog

Due to these blogs being 'undiscovered' with limited readership, last year's winners will make a selection from the unknown blogs nominated for this category. The selected top ten will then go through to the final voting stage as per normal.

Winner: <http://livinglifebreathlessly.blogspot.com>

Best SA Entertainment Blog

Weblogs about movies, television, celebrities, theatre and topical issues with entertainment value

Winner: <http://blog.ecr.co.za/breakfast>

Best Post on a South African Blog

The one post which stood out in 2007

Winner: <http://mushypeasontoast.blogspot.com/2007/10/how-not-to-buy-condoms.html>

Best Original Writing on a South African Blog

Composition, attention to detail, advanced levels of subject investigation

Winner: <http://mushypeasontoast.blogspot.com>

Best SA Photographic Blog

The best SA blog featuring original photographic content

Winner: <http://jenty-mylifeinpics.blogspot.com>

Best SA Blog about Food and Wine

The best blog written primarily about food or drink

Winner: <http://cooksister.com>

Best SA Music Blog

Best weblog about news of a musical nature

Winner: <http://peakperformances.co.za>

Best SA Podcast

Best independently produced video or audio podcast in SA

Winner: <http://blog.ecr.co.za/justplain>

Best Group Blog

Best blog with more than one contributor

Winner: <http://blog.ecr.co.za/breakfast>

Best Sports Blog

A weblog written exclusively about any recognised sport

Winner: <http://keo.co.za>

Best Travel Blog

The best South African blog featuring travel related content.

Winner: <http://capetowndailyphoto.com>

Best South African Personal Blog

Covers diary type blogs of a personal lifestory nature

Winner: <http://tertia.org> ”

For the full list of winners and runners up, go to www.sablogawards.com/2008/.

The awards ceremony itself last night was short and sweet, punctuated with humour - the controversial *Sunday Times* columnist [David Bullard](#) was initially announced as the winner of the blog best promoting blogging in SA.

Winners walked off with a potted indigenous sapling from [Stodels Nursery](#) (promoting Green-consciousness) and a bottle of Warwick Estate wine. Cerebra sponsored an iPod Nano, Dell certain categories with four flat screen monitors and the overall winner scooped 2008 cents and an Xbox 360 from Microsoft (since that was Thought Leader, one wonders how the team consisting of Buckland, strategist Vincent Maher and online editor Riaan Wolmarans are going to divvy up the spoils with their contributors...)

For the latest blog posts concerning the awards, see the SA Blog Awards widget on the Bizcommunity.com Breaking News blog, <http://blog.bizcommunity.com>.

ABOUT SIMONE PUTERMAN

Simone Puterman (@SimoneAtLarge) is currently editor-at-large at Markives.com and deputy chair of the Sanef online editors subcommittee. After majoring in psychology and linguistics at Rhodes University, and then completing her honours in psychology, she has been in the world of B2B publishing since 1997, with 7.5 year stints at both WriteStuff Publishing and Bizcommunity.com (March 2006-August 2013). Email her at simone@markives.com.

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