



**The 2019 Gutenberg Award
The Premier Award of the
Australasian Religious Press Association**

The Award Citation

The 2019 Gutenberg Award is made to
Press Service International

Press Service International (PSI) is one of the ministries of Well-Being Australia (WBA) with a specialist role and focus on providing articles for the Christian press, particularly Christian Today Australia (CTA), as well other online publications. Originally established in 2005, PSI developed following Dr Mark Tronson's appointment as a columnist for CTA in 2008, and following CTA's interest in having a daily sports column focus in 2010, a group of young writers were gathered by Dr Tronson and CTA and a contribution policy developed that has spread to other areas, including comment, culture and science.

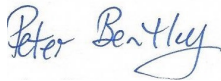
The agreement between Christian Today Australia and **Press Service International** allows articles published in Christian Today to be reproduced by any other publication provided acknowledgement is given to Christian Today. This provides a wealth of material for a much wider range of publications, as well providing opportunity and experience for younger writers, as well as senior writers.

PSI articles aim to follow Christian Today's motto from Matthew 5:37, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No': straight forward writing with integrity. Young writers have been recruited from a wide range of backgrounds and countries and provide a range of viewpoints about everyday life and the ethical and theological issues of the day, and another

voice in the public Christianity arena in Australia and New Zealand. Under Mark's oversight there is a team of editors and co-ordinators who bring the articles to publication and co-ordinate all the activities. Their own internal conferences and award events recognising excellence have been a cornerstone of the professional development of the ministry.

Press Service International is a New Zealand and Australian ministry with its two arms and ministry teams. Over 200 people have contributed articles through PSI, with more than 70 active writers in any year. PSI has enabled the mentoring of young writers as columnists, encouraging their involvement in professional organisations like ARPA, attending conferences and active involvement now in the ARPA executive.

I am pleased to announce **Press Service International** as the recipient of the 2019 Gutenberg.



Peter Bentley
President 2018-2019

SILVER

***"What's so funny"?* New Times.**

Photographer, Belinda Taylor

Here is "high impact photography" at its best. Taken at the precise moment that this action took place, is highly commendable. The figure at left creates a point of interest. Well composed and layout leaves little to be desired.

BRONZE

"The laying on of Hands" Guardian.

Photographer Peter March

A difficult action to portray, but here is creativity and technical ability at its finest. As a cover photo it creates the desire to learn more of the event and who is involved. The composition leads into the top centre, the person being commended in prayer. Well done.

CATEGORY 21

Best Headline

GOLD

Not awarded

SILVER

Journey Queensland

"Mine and Yours: sharing tomorrow's wealth"

BRONZE

Not awarded

Judges Comments

An unexciting collection of entries. The winners stood out for drawing the eye, linking words and a good visual image,

encouraging the reader to enter the article and being relevant to the content of the whole.

CATEGORY 22

Best Original Illustration

GOLD

Taming the Tongue

Hilary Sandeman in ACCatalyst

"Taming the Tongue"

The illustration told the story! It was simple and immediately effective. Well done!

SILVER

***Witnessing to the light,
The Melbourne Anglican***

An engaging illustration that captures the idea of passing on the great gift of God's light and love that was His gift to us at Christmas. Thoughtfully executed and quietly challenging to the audience.

BRONZE

***Front and back wrap around
Christmas cover,***

***Ingrid Barratt, War Cry (NZ, Fiji,
Tonga, Samoa Territory)***

A fun filled interactive illustration. It could have been more relevant and even stronger with use of more symbols that represented Christ's birth and the Southern hemisphere where the publication is circulated.

CATEGORY 23

Best Social Media Campaign

Not awarded

Large range of news and feature material for reading.
Sunday Devotions provide an incentive to re-visit the site regularly.
Advertising is not overly intrusive.
This site is a standout for how diocesan news can be presented in an accessible and professional way.

SILVER

Southern Cross (Adelaide). Editor, Jenny Brinkworth.
thesoutherncross.com.au

First thing you come to is a large school ad and the website banner.
The font for headlines is very readable and easy to the eye.
It is a simple but effective design, based on individual story/photo combinations separated by faint keylines. Get the feel of a newspaper but it is online. A great effect.

Plenty of white space so your eye is not assaulted with graphics and gimmicks.
Dates of stories are clearly noted which is useful if you are looking for new stories. Individual stories when clicked are cleanly set out and there is an invitation to look at other related stories.

The "Cathcam" is an excellent feature. Can click through a series of related photos. Simple interface. Perhaps needs explaining somewhere on the site

Simple email subscription service is offered. And there are links to related social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

A professional and user-friendly news site which could well be used as a model for other diocesan media.

BRONZE

"Others" online, Salvation Army national internal publication . others.org.au

Clean look on main page.
Top stories are prominently displayed.
Social media links are readily available.
Font is too small and too feint. Much of the text disappears into the page. But stories are interesting and variety is available.
User-friendly and fast interface for accessing the printed publication as a PDF in the "Read Magazine" section.
And easy access to past editions. Very useful feature.

CATEGORY 20

Best Original Photography

GOLD

"Light to those who sit in darkness"
The Gippsland Anglican.
Photographer, Chris McAleer.

The creativity involved in producing this photo is outstanding. As a cover photo, it would attract the reader to enquire further for the background and subject matter. Photographically, the point of interest (overhead) and the individual (lower left) are well positioned and composed.

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES

The Executive and members of The Australasian Religious Press Association, wish to thank the judges for the care and concern with which they have made their judgements in all of the 2019 ARPA Awards.

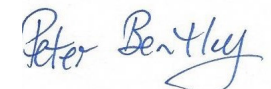
While some of the categories attract a large number of entries and these in particular, require considerable time and effort on behalf of the judges, even those with less entries, still mean in some cases, hours of work.

Each year when invited to be a judge, every person has accepted the task willingly and without hesitation.

ARPA appreciates this willingness and thanks the judges for their involvement in the Awards which are such an important part of the work of the Association.

THANK YOU TO OUR GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

We sincerely thank the staff of War Cry New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa (Territory) for their graphic design input into the cover of this book and the certificates. This contribution was given at no cost to ARPA and is much appreciated.



President

The Publication of the Year

2019

Annual Trophy Award of The Australasian Religious Press Association Is awarded to Eureka Street

Eureka Street has over many years provided a thoughtful combination of relevance, currency and orthodoxy, which represents and reflects to its audience core Christian values at a time when these are very much questioned, threatened or distorted in the discourse of our communities.

Long may Eureka Street help its readers to “find it”.

Highly commended

Eternity is a lively publication and while its editor and editorial advisory panel need to reflect more profoundly as to what it means to cover the Christian faith, and its fallible institutional forms, in their totality, the publication’s coverage of Indigenous people and issues, especially in the Year of Indigenous Languages is to be commended.

Tui Motu InterIsland magazine continues to delight, with its wonderfully idiosyncratic artwork, for which reason alone, it deserves to be highly commended.



Text should wrap around the photo/ illustration, left to right.

If you are going to indent the first paragraph of a story – or not – that needs to be consistent throughout the publications.

Text, adverts or other on a dark background should be to the bottom or right of the page – lighter colours on top/to the left.

Captions – one line or 1.5-2 lines. If the caption is one line and one word, change the caption to extend or shorten the sentence.

In a single column story, a photo always looks better at the top of the column rather than at the end, and never floating somewhere in between.

Where you place the photo or illustration is very important. It is better for the text to hold it up than for it to be holding the text up. For that reason, try not to let a photo wallow at the bottom of the page.

CATEGORY 18

Best Design Newspaper

GOLD

not awarded

SILVER

The Southern Cross, Adelaide. Editor, Jenny Brinkworth

The Southern Cross Adelaide and its attractive, open layout draws the reader in. Titles and headlines are bold.

Photography is excellent in quality and size. The issues submitted were dated March, August and December. The first

two were printed on coated, glossy stock, while the December issue was printed on quality matte newsprint, which I found easier to read.

BRONZE

not awarded

Judges comments

Again, there were only two entries in this category. The criteria require that entries show strength and effective integration of text and graphic design, with typography, photography, illustrations, colour, sidebars, white space and captions also coming under consideration.

While I commend both editors, one entry clearly had an edge over the other in meeting the criteria.

CATEGORY 19

Best Website

GOLD

anglican focus. Editor, Michelle McDonald, anglicanfocus.org.au

This site bears a strong resemblance to Southern Cross Adelaide in format and style. Except it makes much better use of the drop down menus for a more engaging user experience.

The blue main bar is bold and striking. Stories click through easily and the font is eminently readable - much more so than other sites that have nominated. Good choice.

The “photos of the month” album enables a quick scroll-through and is an engaging feature.

BRONZE

***Mums at the Table. Adventist Media,
Editor Melody Tan***

Judges comments

This was an interesting category to judge and all the entries were excellent. As such, final decisions came down to some critical design flaws and small differences between publications. The important thing about design is to use it consciously – therefore, on every page, ask yourself why the page looks like that. As examples, why that photo is being used, why photos/pictures/illustrations and hanging quotes are being used ‘there’ (in that space) on the page. Every page should be critically assessed, just as you critically assess and choose a story to include (or not).

Without doubt, Christian publications have changed and are reaching an eclectic, diverse social network – reflected in the publications that were entered in this category. Thank you for your diversity.

Sometimes, trying to do clever design works; most of the time, it irritates the eye. The result – turn the page, move on, put the publication down. People read for relaxation and to learn – so the publication needs to understand that. For some publications, there was consistent use of text fonts across the publication. This is good. Others used multiple text fonts without a clear understanding for the reader of why. This is a flaw.

Headings – ensure there is a significant

enough difference between font size that the main header on a story is obvious – it is not enough to just have it in a different colour, when the font size is similar. You want the headline to ‘pop’ and attract the reader.

It’s important to be consistent about sub-headings throughout the article and throughout the publication. If you use an acronym as a sub-header, ask yourself why and what else could it be replaced with.

If you are wanting to italicise sub-headings, ask yourself if it adds to the page’s appeal – or not.

Ensure the column width is consistent for each story on each page. You can differentiate two stories on the same page by using different column widths, but please don’t vary column widths within the one story.

Avoid putting white text over white on a photo or other illustration – you lose the text. Remember, if you have to frown to see something, you’ve already lost the reader.

Please don’t let hanging white space occur after a paragraph. Even if it’s by a couple of lines, it’s not good enough. You have margins on all four sides of the page for a good reason. Hanging paragraphs at the end of an article, leaving an expanse of white space, is a flaw and detracts on the page. Ask yourself, can I resize the photo/illustration; can I use a hanging quote; do I need to re-place the photo?

Remember we read left to right, top to bottom. You want the eye to follow what it is culturally used to doing.

PUBLISHING

CATEGORY 2

Best Regional Publication

GOLD

The Gippsland Anglican. Editor Jan Down

There was one entry that stood out in my mind, and I have given it the gold award. It is again *The Gippsland Anglican*. What I said last year applies well again. The open format of this tabloid invites the reader in, and it covers a wide range of topics: devotional reflections, profiles, social issues, well-written news stories from around the diocese (with well-chosen pictures), reviews, a prayer diary and a diocesan calendar. It also includes *The Melbourne Anglican* as an insert, taking readers well beyond the diocese, but the award is based solely on *The Gippsland Anglican* itself.

SILVER

Aurora. Editor John Kingsley-Smith

The silver award goes to *Aurora*. Its layout shows creativity, though the type face for many of the heads could have been bolder, and the (san serif) type face in some sections really was too small. According to the very small print, on page 3, *Aurora* appears in several other secular regional publications, and I congratulate the editor on this initiative.

Judges comments

This category is for publications outside major metropolitan areas, which are

defined as ‘Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Auckland metropolitan areas’. According to the criteria, entries will be judged on the overall publication package – content, quality of writing, layout and design – and entries should include details of their intended purpose and audiences. Unfortunately, the Entry Conditions requiring three entries from two calendar years appeared to prove a little difficult for some. While this condition allows for development and improvement to be shown, I am not sure that it really is necessary to span two calendar years. This is the only category with this requirement. It is good to see that the regional Christian press is still ‘alive’, and I would warmly encourage those who submitted entries, as well as other regional publications who did not submit entries. Most operate on ‘shoestring’ budgets, with minimum staff, and they deserve to be complimented for their commitment to the task.

While colour photographs appeared throughout all entries, many of the photos were really too small for a newspaper/magazine. While I’m sure readers like to see themselves in print, one or two larger, well-chosen photographs would generally have more impact than five or six smaller ones.

All the entries in this category came from churches with a diocesan structure, and this is probably understandable. In one entry however, priests appeared to outnumber other

writers.

Most entries appeared very 'cluttered'. Print ran almost to the edge of each page, and there was very little white space to rest the reader's eyes. In one instance the type face for heads/titles was very light. In another, the type face used is too small. Some used exactly the same size type for heads on each page, giving the publication more the appearance of a book! A large, bold type face would have made more impact. With a book, it is often the cover that attracts a reader's interest. What generally attracts a reader's interest in a story in a newspaper or magazine is the head/title.

WRITING

CATEGORY 3

Best New Writer

GOLD

"Invisible People". By Hugh Collins, in War Cry NZ, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory

"Jesus keeps me motivated and keeps me going". A message from one of many community outreach workers for the Salvation Army, dealing with many differing results of homelessness in New Zealand. Faith, and a practicality go hand in hand to help solve problems for vulnerable people. An understanding of their circumstances and non-judgemental responses, help find these people a better life and strength for their future.

SILVER

"Listening to the depths."

By Jane Maisey in Tui Motu InterIslands Magazine

An interesting and insightful account of one person's journey to fulfilment with God. It presents a joyful understanding of how her life is led and supported by her faith which she is able to share with others.

BRONZE

"Overcoming Shame" by Matthew Thornton in The Christian Writer NZ.

This article has a message from which many in times of doubt and trouble could find strength. "Don't give up on yourself, with faith find strength and hope".

Judges comments

Congratulations to all new writers for having a go in this category. The articles were many and varied and all showed promise for the future.

CATEGORY 4

Best News Story

GOLD

"Helping Out Those in Debt"

by Jade Reidy in SPANZ, Spring 2018

Jade Reidy examines the experience of local churches helping vulnerable people deal with debt, manage money and achieve financial independence. This report is realistic and informative without feeling didactic. Over the course of the story, the reader develops empathy and understanding; a powerful combination.

Judges comments

There were three entries in this category: one entry was an occasionally satirical review that offered little humour; another was an historical piece about human behaviour which lacked amusement or insight; the third was a cartoon which drew only a weak and fleeting smile.

Perhaps our faith is too serious a matter to lend itself to the occasional insightful piece of frivolity or levity; or maybe there is little place for any joy – much less a hearty laugh – that dares to intrude into our belief system?

Whatever, for this year there are no awards in this category. Sad.

CATEGORY 15

Best Cover Magazine

GOLD

Megan Haryanto, for Journey Queensland Winter 2018.

Well done on a well-balanced, clean front cover, appealing colours, good use of fonts and connection between the illustration and the headlines and subheaders on the page. Overall excellence. This is a cover that would appeal across a mass audience.

SILVER

New Times, Editor Belinda Taylor August/September 2018.

Good choice of photograph that gives a sensation of movement and feels connected to the headline. Good strong colours. Well-balanced front cover. This

cover asks the question, do you want to know more?

BRONZE

The Record, Perth Issue 14, September 2018

HIGHLY COMMENDED –

Mums at the Table & Southern Cross, Anglican Media, Sydney, October 2018;

(for asking an important question of its audience and for its acknowledgement, on the front cover, of a Chinese readership.)

CATEGORY 16

Best Cover Newspaper

GOLD

"The Promise" By Robyn Davis, The Melbourne Anglican

SILVER

"Because of her, celebrating Aboriginal women", Eternity Magazine

BRONZE

"Statement for Life", NZ Catholic, Dr Michael Otto

CATEGORY 17

Best Design Magazine

GOLD

NZ Baptist (Baptist churches of NZ), Editor Linda Grigg

SILVER

Theodora Pau'u, Nerise McQuillan for Signs of the Times, Adventist Media

recognises are praised. Then follows a critique of the substance of the book and the reviewer's personal theological position is made clear. The readers are given sufficient information to make up their own minds if this is a book that they might choose to read, and sufficient guidelines to think beyond the contents of the book.

SILVER

"Revenge won't fit fatphobia" by Hannah Thiem in Southern Cross, Sydney

This review is of a controversial Netflix series called *Insatiable*. It is a well-structured review: the introduction very briefly outlines the plot, the tone of its content and the reason for the controversy; the next two sections critique the treatment of the themes associated with being fat or thin in a balanced way; and the final section is a theological view of the themes. The writer makes no recommendation re viewing this series but makes it quite clear where she thinks the series is lacking.

BRONZE

"Everything old is new again" by the Rev'd Dr Murray Earl in New Times

This is a review of *Protestants: The Radicals Who Made the Modern World* by Alex Ryrie. The short review is preceded by a succinct summary of title, author, topic summary and recommended readership. The writing is a lively short summary of the

contents and approach of this long book which the writer assures his readers is a joy to read. I am sure the target reader identified by the writer might well act on his advice.

Judges Comments

There were a number of excellent reviews in this category covering fiction and non-fiction writing, films and Netflix TV series. Several were discounted as articles rather than reviews. The winning entry reviews Brian Houston's recently published book, *There is More: When the World Says You Can't God Says You Can* (Vintage Books 2018). It is a well-structured critique. There is a clear statement of the book's style, target, theme, approach and purpose. The positive things which the reviewer recognises are praised. Then follows a critique of the substance of the book and the reviewer's personal theological position is made clear. The readers are given sufficient information to make up their own minds if this is a book that they might choose to read, and sufficient guidelines to think beyond the contents of the book

DESIGN & CREATIVITY

Category 14

Best Humorous article

There were no awards made in this category this year.

SILVER

"Samoa Celebrates! The Salvation Army's Official Launch" by Shar Davis in War Cry New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa!, 25 August 2018

With respect and enthusiasm Shar Davis briskly conveys the mood and drama of a significant event. The style is unpretentious, the coverage is well paced and the protagonists are given a voice. This is a memorable and encouraging story.

BRONZE

"LifeLink Day 2018. 'A Good Shepherd is Prepared to Spend Time with People in Need', Archbishop Costelloe" and "Listen Attentively, Look to the Scriptures. Archbishop Costelloe on Fallout of Royal Commission Response" by Matthew Lau in The Record, (Perth)

If rendering an Archbishop's speeches as news is not a duty you relish, take a lesson from Matthew Lau. In troubled and sceptical times, Matthew expertly presents a church leader speaking with conviction, humility and warmth. His reporting is simple and unembellished. These solid, credible and hopeful stories are told with writing that is tone - and pitch-perfect

Judges comments

The successful pieces in this category give their protagonists a voice. This is achieved by providing the necessary

context and showing how actions complement words. To take a back seat and allow our subjects to speak requires discipline, humility and confidence in our stories. Writers who do this should be celebrated and emulated.

CATEGORY 5

Best Feature, Single Author

GOLD

"Us not Them: the church and homophobia" by Ingrid Barratt in The War Cry, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, (Samoa Territory)

A most worthy and outstanding winner out of 22 entrants in this category. Using as its basis a personal story, this is a courageous and confronting article on a vexing issue within the church. Balanced, contextual, and with appropriate sources, the structure, flow and writing are near-impeccable. The final, three-sentence paragraph is especially superbly crafted in a way that is both thought-provoking and challenging.

SILVER

"Is science replacing God?" by Mark Worthing in The Lutheran
Making superb use of his well-honed communication skills, the writer allays many concerns a layperson may have in the God v. Science debate. Although he has considerable knowledge in both theology and science, he writes in a way that brings simplicity and relatability to what otherwise could

have been an esoteric piece that few might read and fewer still understand.

BRONZE

“When it’s time to say goodbye” By ***Judy Adamson in Southern Cross Sydney***

This article explores ways in which society currently says its ‘final farewells’. Drawing on her own and others experiences with various modes of funerals, she writes from a Christian perspective in developing her proposition. Writing with sensitivity, she nevertheless does not pull any punches in discussing the pros and cons of contemporary and traditional, sacred and secular funeral format options.

CATEGORY 6

Best Feature, Multiple Authors

GOLD

“Zeal and Aroha.”

War Cry NZ, Fiji, Tonga, (Samoa Territory)

Wow. What an event. This feature captured The Salvation Army’s New Zealand weekend, a remarkable story of a special all of church event. It jumps off the page. I felt like I was there. I was also deeply moved as I read the Maori ministry encounter and the words of the territorial commander drew me into the power of Jesus’ story – his life, death and resurrection. Well done Ingrid and team.

SILVER

“Challenges and Joys – living with Autism”

The Lutheran, Editor, Lisa McIntosh.

A fabulous feature. The article written by the parent of a child with Asperger’s was insightful and helpful for me as a reader to empathise about the challenges and joys of raising a child on the autism spectrum. The section about the church who had created special spaces gave added depth to the feature and provided practical ideas for other churches to follow. I loved the gentleness of Lisa’s editor letter introducing the theme.

BRONZE

“Strands of spirituality in the Catholic Church”

Australian Catholics,

Clean layout, short and accessible summaries of the different spiritualities, very engaging.

The quiz added a fun but insightful dimension. As a non-Catholic I found the short summaries very helpful. The articles made me want to know more. I resonated with the different forms of spirituality. Thank you Margaret.

Judges Comments

What an extraordinary privilege it has been to judge this section. Let me say at the outset, every entry was worthy of an award. The topic of each feature was worthy of the time allocated; the issues were well explored offering firsthand commentary where relevant. I want to

comprehensive, presenting possible action that could be taken by consumers, government and industry. The argument is humanised with an inspiring example of what one person can achieve. The article ends with practical advice on how readers can make a difference to our environment.

SILVER

“The battle Australians don’t want to remember”

By Kylie Beach in Eternity News, 9 June 2018

A powerful story of the barbaric 1838 massacre of nearly 30 defenceless Wirrayaraay people on their tribal lands near Myall Creek in northern NSW, and the ensuing court battle that eventually led to justice for most, but not all, of the murderers. It is a poignant story, well told. The difficulties of enforcing the rule of law in those early wild days of colonial expansion are recognised. More credit could have been given to Governor Gipps and Attorney-General Plunkett – men of Christian profession – for their persistence in ensuring that the perpetrators were brought to justice. A message for today: “Lest we forget!”

BRONZE

“Mind Fields”

By Deb Bennett in Crosslight, October 2018

This well-written, engaging article provides insights on the problems of depressed young people in regional areas with very limited mental health support, and the devastating impact on

family members – pointing to the need for long-term funding. The article assembles convincing evidence from multiple sources: a public health study, a Lifeline manager, government agencies and academic researchers. Added impact is achieved by telling “Samantha’s” story of her brother, whose suffering from a mental illness was exacerbated by inadequate mental health services.

Judges comments

There were many entries of high standard in this category, covering a range of issues. It was not easy to pick the winners, but those that particularly stood out were engagingly written and addressed a key current issue along with pointers to a way forward.

Category 13

Best Review

GOLD

“Enlivening but limited exploration of ‘more’ mantra”, by The Rev’d Bob Mitchell in The Melbourne Anglican

There were a number of excellent reviews in this category covering fiction and non-fiction writing, films and Netflix TV series. Several were discounted as articles rather than reviews. The winning entry reviews Brian Houston’s recently published book, *There is More: When the World Says You Can’t God Says You Can* (Vintage Books 2018). It is a well-structured critique. There is a clear statement of the book’s style, target, theme, approach and purpose. The positive things which the reviewer

difficult questions many simply think about.

BRONZE

“Unwrapping the true wonder of Jesus’ birth”, by The Rev’d Nigel Rogers, Journey. Qld

This article focussing on relational “needs” rather than material “wants” is very relevant to people’s faith journey not just during the Christmas season, but all year round. It is clearly written, well structured and warmly human.

Category 11

Best Theological Article

GOLD

“Who is this Man” By Ingrid Barratt in War Cry, NZ, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa Territory

This is one of the most effective articles I have read on the theology of the incarnation. It thoroughly places Jesus as a human being as well as giving a believable divine dimension without taking away from the humanity. It rightly has an inclusive element showing Jesus as accessible to all cultures and types of humanity.

SILVER

“Was Paul a Misogynist?”

By Norman Young, in Adventist Record

A well expounded exposition of the chosen bible passages in St Paul’s Epistles and other foundational passages on the theology pertaining to marriage and male/female relationships. The author travels

through the same paths as did Paul in his day when the prevailing culture saw women as inferior and subject to men. Some two thousand years later we are still uncoupling Christianity from the same secular bind as this article gives witness.

BRONZE

“How green is my Bible?” By Neil Bergmann in The Lutheran.

A well-argued and comprehensive overview of a theology of creation with reference to the biblical stance and a denominational stance based on this, well-placing of humanity .

Judges Comments

Some of the articles submitted I consider were not in the strictly Theological category. They would be better placed in such departments as Missiology, Ethics, Evangelism, Biography and Denominational Praxis for them to be properly evaluated.

Category 12

Best Social Justice Article

GOLD

“Rethinking plastic—local action on a global issue” by Heather Dowling in Revive, June 2018

A well-crafted, stimulating article addressing the growing problem of plastic waste that provides authoritative information on the damage to wildlife and the environment in a clear, simple and readable style. The treatment is

pay note to Tui Motu’s feature on reducing inequality among countries. An excellent feature, but you needed one more article to round it off – something that spoke specifically to church members about how they can engage in these issues – biblically, practically, prayerfully. That is what stopped you being among the award winners, as you addressed significant issues, from very personal perspectives. Thought provoking etc, but it could have been equally featured in a secular paper. anglican focus’s piece on faith and dementia was thought-provoking and honouring of those who no longer have the same intellectual capacity they once had; NZ Catholic’s feature on the ordination of Bishop Dooley was comprehensive, bringing a news report, a profile piece, a Q&A, Vox pops and great images. It was engaging and relevant. The Lutheran’s piece on indigenous voices was honest, insightful and thoughtful.

CATEGORY 7

Best Profile Story

GOLD

“The Good Shepherd”

by David Halliday, in Melbourne Catholic.

This category was judged on the ‘overall strength and quality of writing and effectiveness to relate the essential humanity of the story’. The winning entry is a long tribute to Archbishop Denis Hart, written in formal

impeccable English. It outlines the subject’s considerable achievements in ministry while including sufficient quotes from others and commentary from the writer to give the reader a comprehensive view of a significant human being.

SILVER

“The Right to be Human”

By Robyn Raymond in War Cry NZ, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory

In a journalistic style suited to this magazine the article covers the early life, education, career, personal relationship and political life of a refugee to NZ who is now a Greens MP. Her driving force to care for the poor and marginalized, and to overcome discrimination in NZ, her humour, and her humility are carefully displayed by the writer through a balanced use of narrative and direct speech, obviously gleaned from a lengthy interview with the subject.

BRONZE

“Moving into the Neighbourhood” by Bill Simpson in Others

This article develops an understanding of the Salvation Army’s Chifley Mission in Bidwell, NSW basically through presenting the organisation through the eyes of its participants. After the introduction to the suburb as a place of “struggle, survival, sacrifice and serious social issues”, the reader then is introduced to the work and

involvement of participants: the corp leaders' sacrificial incarnational ministry, their motivation and approach to ministry and the life struggles and yet commitment to ministry of three young soldiers who are involved with their programs.

Judges Comments

This category was judged on the 'overall strength and quality of writing and effectiveness to relate the essential humanity of the story'. The winning entry is a long tribute to Archbishop Denis Hart, written in formal impeccable English. It outlines the subject's considerable achievements in ministry while including sufficient quotes from others and commentary from the writer to give the reader a comprehensive view of a significant human being.

CATEGORY 8

Best Editorial or Opinion Piece

GOLD

"Seeking Justice in the public square"
By Jenny Brinkworth in Southern Cross (Adelaide) December 2018

This is a superbly crafted editorial on a very sensitive topic. What happens when a person is found guilty and is then proven innocent? And what if that person is a church leader and subject to worldwide media attention? In the current social climate, the author risks being damned whatever she says – but

shows such wisdom and compassion that few could object.

SILVER

"Don't change anthem lightly"
By Michael Otto in NZ Catholic, July 15-28, 2018

This editorial addresses a topical issue – a push to change New Zealand's national anthem, largely because it mentions God and is therefore deemed outdated. The author notes several attempts to change anthems and flags in other countries. He quotes German Chancellor Angela Merkel's view that anthems shouldn't be changed just to fit in with the current zeitgeist. Engaging and well-argued, but slightly marred by the misspelling of a person's name.

BRONZE

"Signs of the Times," by Peter Bentley, ACCatalyst, March 2018

An insightful commentary on the changing meaning of the age-old words "love" and "marriage" in connection with the 2017 same-sex marriage plebiscite – discussing prominent signs, an obscene mural and sadly, hypocritical attacks by some churches on the right of others to declare their biblical beliefs. Well-written, but slightly marred by a grammatical infelicity in the teaser and the misspelling of a prominent person's name.

Judges comments

Entries were generally of a high standard and presented perspectives on

a wide range of current issues. The category calls for a persuasive argument on a particular topic. Most entries aimed to do that, but a few may have been more suitable for a different category. The occasional misspelt name and grammatical infelicity was disappointing and suggests that greater care with proofreading is warranted.

CATEGORY 9

Best Column

GOLD

"Dead Man Writing" by David Halliday, Melbourne Catholic

This column was an absolute standout. David Halliday reveals how he once wrote a series of letters to an American man on death row. The article explores both the mundane and the profound aspects of prison life in the United States, very ably weaving it into a reflection on the crucifixion story and the New Testament writers, many of whom were also "jailbirds". It is moving and profound. This is exactly the type of writing we need - bridging the gap between the type of secular political column writing we see in our daily newspapers and critical reflection from a Christian standpoint. Well done.

SILVER

"The fence and the ribbon"
By David Halliday, Melbourne Catholic

By exploring the phenomenon of the Loud Fence movement, David has provided fresh insight into the child sexual abuse issue, while also reflecting on the broader notion of memorialising

tragedy. It is heart-felt and fleshes out many of the complexities of response to the royal commission. An excellent and well-written piece.

BRONZE

"Melbourne punks are at the forefront of protest"

By Celeste Liddle, Eureka Street

Eureka Street is often surprising. This column stood out for its forensic yet personal insight into Melbourne's punk music scene and how it relates to many of the political and social movements and issues of our time. Celeste aptly describes the column as a "love letter to the many musicians in Melbourne who entertain us". Encore!

CATEGORY 10

Best Faith Reflection

GOLD

"Live your best ordinary life" by Greg Liston, NZ Baptist (Baptist Churches of New Zealand)

"Live your best ordinary life" is an extraordinary article that well and truly deserves first place. It is thought provoking, well-written, balanced, and deeply relevant to all – especially to those of us who are faithful plodders.

SILVER

"Faith in fairness", by Craig Vernal, NZ Baptist, (Baptist Churches of New Zealand)

"Faith in fairness" is a clear, interesting and relevant article for all people living with their own or other people's pain and loss. It is well written and asks the