



ARPA AWARDS 2020

AUSTRALASIAN RELIGIOUS PRESS ASSOCIATION

A COMMUNICATION NETWORK
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

THANK YOU

OUR JUDGES

The Executive team and members of The Australasian Religious Press Association wish to thank the judges for the care and concern with which they have made their judgments in all of the 2020 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 2020 Awards which are such an important part of the work of the Association.

2020 GUTENBERG AWARD

The Premier Annual Award of the
Australian Religious Press Association is made to:

ETERNITY

Published by Bible Society Australia, Eternity is a national news service for Australian Christians. Eternity is named after the famous chalk copperplate script Arthur Stace spent 37 years writing on Sydney's footpaths—an act of obedience to tell others about his Christian faith, to point people to consider how their actions would echo in eternity.

Editor John Sandeman founded the national newspaper in 2009 with David Maegraith. Their desire was to see a quality news publication created for the Christian audience in Australia. Free, on request, to schools, churches, colleges, bookshops and cafes, Eternity quickly became Australia's largest non-denominational Christian newspaper, with an estimated readership of over 100,000 people. In 2011, Eternity merged with The Bible Society.

Under John Sandeman's leadership, Eternity has provided an outstanding mix of personal testimonies, opinion, national stories of Christian interest, local reflection on international events, in depth issues reporting and news. The quality of writing and the excellent standard of presentation reflect John's years of experience in the secular news media and his desire to bring this professional integrity into the field of Christian news.

2020 GUTENBERG AWARD

More than 10 years after starting as a monthly printed newspaper, Eternity has built a successful online presence. Digitally, Eternity reaches over 300,000 Australians across social media and the web, and has a 40,000 strong subscriber base for regular email content. Eternity's digital offering now includes growing video and podcast content, setting the standard for excellence in digital Christian news media.

While COVID-19 has meant the end of the printed publication, Eternity continues as an online news service, accompanied by the Eternity Podcast Network which produces popular podcasts such as With All Due Respect, Undeceptions, and Salt. Eternity content is also featured in the newly-created Bible Society Magazine.

It is therefore my great pleasure to present the Gutenberg Award for 2020 to Eternity.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sophia Sinclair".

Sophia Sinclair
President

The background features a dark blue diagonal stripe running from the top right to the bottom left. A large circle with a hatched pattern is positioned in the center, overlapping the stripe. The word "PUBLISHING" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the center of the image.

PUBLISHING

PUBLICATION OF THE YEAR

NZ CATHOLIC

NZ Catholic showed itself to be current, and adaptable. The paper has the courage to report honestly and accurately on sensitive issues affecting the community of faith (eg The Cardinal Pell case). I note the re-working of the publication in light of the Christchurch mosque massacre, coverage of which was outstanding. In design, the paper is easy to read and makes good use of colourful photographs to balance what is a text intensive field of journalism. NZ Catholic does an excellent job being catholic; covering all the dioceses, as well as international news. New Zealand has just been through an extremely exacting year or so, with the White Island tragedy, the events in Christchurch, and more recently Covid 19 lockdown, with two lockdowns in Auckland city. The opportunities for supporting people of faith in their faith, are enormous under such circumstances, and my reading of the NZ Catholic suggests it does that exceptionally well. This is all the more praiseworthy because church publications, whatever denomination, are usually thinly resourced. And the elephant in the room is the challenge of the digital. Should we dispense with the hard copy paper, and its associated costs, knowing that many readers are not expert users of the new technologies. It is extremely pleasing to see the paper consistently, and effectively, managing difficult issues, such as those surrounding institutional responses to child abuse. As a regular visitor to NZ (two of my grandchildren are NZ-born) I look forward to seeing the paper as it faces the future.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Eternity & The Lutheran

BEST REGIONAL PUBLICATION

GOLD

Aurora

Aurora is an attractive publication, with very professional writing and layout. The advertising is also appealing adding to the quality of the publication. It should cater to a wide range of readers, with a range of subjects. There does seem to be a preference to a 'puce – purple' colour throughout the magazine which may not be universally appealing.

SILVER

The Willochran

Here we have a quality publication obviously produced with a restricted budget. It fulfils its purpose keeping the constituents of Willochra informed. It covers a wide range of interests and is initially attractive. The quality and use of photographs are especially appealing adding to the whole package. Long may it continue.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

Last year, the judge made several comments about the entries in this category. I believe it would be prudent to review this category to ensure the rationale for including it in the Awards is clear. If including this category is to give 'a go' to publications on restricted budget, then this perception is not necessarily workable. There are some large cities outside of the metropolitan areas which could mean greater resources. The entries this year confirmed this view. Another comment made last year was the requirement for six entries coming from a two-year period. I would confirm that this is unnecessary. If the desire is to assist those who operate on restricted (or even non-existent) budgets, then a more explicit category may be necessary.

The background features a light purple/mauve color. A large, dark blue diagonal stripe runs from the top right towards the bottom left. A circle with a dark blue hatched pattern is positioned in the center-left. The word "WRITING" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the center of the image, overlapping the hatched circle and the diagonal stripe.

WRITING

BEST NEW WRITER

GOLD

War Cry - NZ, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa

'Is there such a thing as too much grace?' by Jules Badger, 27 July 2019

Jules Badger ponders the much-loved lyrics of Amazing Grace and reflects on her own experience of God's unmerited favour. In this well-structured essay, based on the lines of this famous hymn, Jules says she first witnessed grace in action when her terminally ill father was radically converted shortly before his death. This same grace also touched Badger's life, enabling her to quit the binge-drinking and promiscuity in which she had tried to drown her grief. She too became a follower of Jesus. But can an emphasis on grace cause us to be irresponsible? Can we have too much of it? Badger asks rhetorically. The answer is no. Grace is extravagant, immeasurable, generous, complete, and always needed. A beautiful essay on a timeless theme.

SILVER

Australian Catholic

'My mental health journey' by Caitlin Humphrys, Winter 2019

Mental health conditions dogged Caitlin Humphrys' life for two decades, causing her depression and anxiety from her teenage years. But through a tortuous journey involving hospitals, medications, psychiatrists, therapists and a supportive family, Caitlin found God to be sufficient. She writes candidly of her ups and downs, and of the faith which has kept her going. That faith remains a crucial part of how she cares for her mental health today. This is an honest and fascinating story which may well bless readers who are experiencing similar struggles. Well done, Caitlin!

BEST NEW WRITER

BRONZE

NZ Catholic

The happiest day of Kiwi Carmelite's life' by Mina Amso, 2 November 2019

Sister Catherine of Christ, a newly professed nun now living in a Christchurch Carmelite community, grew up in the small town of Kurow, in New Zealand's South Island, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister. She had little enthusiasm for spiritual matters as a child, but God had an overriding purpose for her life. In her Anglican high school, she became interested in the Christian, and then the Catholic, faith. Mina Amso has written an interesting and inspiring story about this young woman whom God called to a simple life of prayer and service. The day she made her final vows she says, "was the happiest day of my life, by a long shot."

BEST NEWS STORY

GOLD

Eternity

'Scott Morrison prays for Australia at Hillsong conference' by Kylie Beach, 9 July 2019

The report that provoked a media storm. Kylie Beach is alert to drama, mood, history and consequence. Her writing is smooth, brisk and precise. The reader is given the necessary context and background and the protagonists are allowed to speak for themselves. Excellent!

SILVER

Touchstone

'Wesley College, a place of special character' by Ady Shannon, February 2019

An ordinary report about an historic school in Auckland is made memorable by the stories of two graduating students. Eneasi Vaka'uta and Sharon Tuipala are given the opportunity to move beyond the predictable and the obvious, and to win a place in our hearts.

BRONZE

Wesley Impact!

'Changing lives, one tax return at a time' by Esther Pinn, Spring 2019

A simple but satisfying report about an initiative that gives students at the UNSW School of Taxation and Business Law the opportunity to help battlers lodge their tax returns and move towards financial independence. Pedestrian but perfect.

BEST NEWS STORY

JUDGE'S 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 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.

BEST FEATURE SINGLE AUTHOR

GOLD

War Cry (NZ, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa)

'The Power of Forgiveness' by Shar Davis

A well-researched, thought-provoking story of forgiveness motivated by faith. Originating from a dark event in New Zealand's colonial past (Parihaka, 5 November 1881), the various threads of the story are carefully and sensitively woven together, to vividly illustrate the truth of the story-title itself. Very impressive also for context, depth, and source material. And what a stunning painting by Liam Barr on the cover-page promoting the story - Wow!

SILVER

ACCatalyst

'Protection of Religious Freedoms' by Monica Doumit

This comparatively lengthy feature gives the reader every reason to be very wary of societal trends in Australasia that are/may usurp our religious freedoms. It mostly displays the criteria required of this award category. It is comprehensive and convincing. Its concluding challenges leave the reader – and the church ecumenical - with a clear call to action.

BEST FEATURE SINGLE AUTHOR

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Southern Cross

'Multicultural Workers and Ministry' by Tara Sing

The Gippsland Anglican

'Lake Tyers' History and Aboriginal Ministry Today' by Jan Down

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

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BEST FEATURE MULTIPLE AUTHOR

GOLD

The Lutheran

A God of Second Chances

This feature begins with the cover, then the editor's letter on page 2, a thoughtful devotion on the topic and four individual stories with strong accompanying images: The prodigal father, Thanks God for my second chance, Shedding my old life and Taking the gospel beyond bars. The vulnerability of these features demonstrates the high degree of trust the subjects of each story have in The Lutheran. These are stories of broken lives transformed by God's love and their intersection with the community outreach services of the Lutheran Church. The stories engage and move the readers, reminding us of our own brokenness and the power of a church in action at the coal face. Congratulations to editor Lisa McIntosh who frames the feature in her wonderful opening letter. This feature is honest, vulnerable, raw and invitational. God is alive today, intervening in individual lives, enabling people no matter what their past, to be reconciled and look to a new beginning.

BEST FEATURE MULTIPLE AUTHOR

SILVER

Eternity

The Good Vote Podcast

This is the dilemma for a judge. How does one adequately compare the spoken word with the written? This seven part series was aired in the lead up to our last Federal Election, providing informed discussion on issues that were likely to be of importance to Australian Christians. Its two hosts, Tim Costello and Mel Wade, speak to a different expert across each of the podcasts which, following an introductory podcast, look at some serious hot button issues: Islamophobia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Women, the Environment, Religious Freedom and the Economy. The guests are not necessarily Christians, and what makes the conversations so engaging are the mutual admiration the guests each have with Tim Costello and vice versa, Mel Wade's role in asking the every person question (what I refer to as 'the dumb question everyone wants to ask') and the respectful way the conversations are conducted. Each guest is a public figure which makes the conversations even more interesting as we learned about where a stylish Moslem woman might shop for her wardrobe to some stark facts about climate change. Insightful, entertaining and easy listening. Well done Eternity team for a first-class production.

BEST FEATURE MULTIPLE AUTHOR

BRONZE

The Melbourne Anglican

Summer Reading Special

Beautifully laid out, and definitely ticks the box for this category - multiple authors! 13 different writers contribute to this four page Christmas feature providing a range of book reviews to enable TMA readers a bounteous choice of books to occupy their summer holidays. The writers covered a variety of demographics - gender, age, lay/ordained with one Aboriginal voice. The reviews covered both fiction and non-fiction, Australian authors and a children's book. Perhaps a bit more ethnic diversity for your next Summer special could be good. What is intriguing is that TMA has a book review committee! The writing was engaging, personal and definitely had me writing down some more titles to my recommended reading list!

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

Congratulations to all who entered this section. The stories were diverse, ranging from redemption to election issues; drought to the ongoing social justice legacy of Christians who have gone before. It has raised one complication for the ARPA executive. As the association continues to evolve, how does it embrace new content channels such as podcasts and video, other forms of telling stories for a body that has the word 'press' in its name? There is clearly an urgency as the printed word in the form of newspapers and magazines is fast becoming a rare species

BEST PROFILE STORY

GOLD

Zadok Perspectives

'A Short Biography of Robert Banks' by Gordon Preece

This article intended "to bring honour to the prophet in his own country" and it succeeded in doing that. It was a short biography but one of the longer articles submitted for this category. It gave an enthusiastic comprehensive view of a person of significance. It dealt with Robert Banks's theological education, his career in academia, and his publications, showing how the subject's radical biblical views pushed him to radical action. The article built a picture of Banks's personality and behaviour; it showed how he related to his wife and children and to colleagues and students; it included the devastation of the death of Banks's spouse and his joy at a second marriage. The profile of his life was based on the writer's own experience of Robert Banks but also quoted from other people. It certainly did show the basic humanity of the subject in a very warm appraisal. The long article was divided very helpfully into three acts and an epilogue: 1. early academia, 2. independent scholar-practitioner, 3. Fuller Theological seminary professor, and then the time since the death of his first wife to the present. The structure, impeccable syntax and grammar made this article a joy to read and comprehend.

BEST PROFILE STORY

SILVER

The Southern Cross

'Called to find the face of Christ in the streets' by Jenny Brinkworth

This article very nicely traces the life of Fr Steve Sinn SJ showing how his early call to faith as a child has motivated his whole life and ministry: 'holding up before God the worries, the concerns and anxieties of all the people I know'. The article tells of his ministry as a teacher, Director of Corpus Christ, (a place for homeless men), parish priest at Kings Cross, and now leader of The Bridge community for ex-prisoners. The author interweaves her factual information of his life and ministry with extensive quotes from the subject himself, so she really lets him tell his story of his relationships with the homeless, the outcast and unlovable and his firm beliefs which motivate and sustain him. A worthy subject is given worthy treatment in this journalistic style piece of writing, and the reader certainly feels drawn to admiration of the subject.

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BRONZE

Aurora

'Mum's cottage is the place to be' by Brooke Robinson

As a judge, I pondered several articles as possible Bronze award winners, but kept coming back to this very short profile because of the vivacity of the writing which recreated the atmosphere of the organization, Mum's Cottage. She outlines her experience at Mum's cottage, the welcome she received, her introduction to the organisers and volunteers, some stories of particular people helped there, interwoven with an explanation of the purpose and actions of the establishment. She brings out her theme, that Mum's Cottage is a place of welcome, with expertise.

BEST EDITORIAL/OPINION PIECE

GOLD

Aurora

'The abortion argument' by Bishop Bill Wright, September 2019

This opinion piece tackles a topic many in the media shy away from these days. But Bishop Bill Wright's arguments are simple and cogent – providing evidence, without condemning others. It is well-written and well-presented. Bravo!

SILVER

Eternity

'The greatest shave has been a long time coming' by John Sandeman, 21 Jan 2019

A thought-provoking article on the controversial Gillette “#metoo” advertisement. The analysis of the popular 74-year-old song, Baby it's cold outside, is particularly telling. Is it really “date rape”? Re-read the lyrics!

BRONZE

The Melbourne Anglican

'The Pentecostals are coming. Are we ready?' by Rev Dr Mark Durie, May 2019

The rise of Pentecostalism is the elephant in the cathedral. There are now more people in the (Pentecostal) Australian Christian Churches each Sunday than in any other Protestant denomination. The lower Pentecostal age profile means that before long, their members may also outnumber Catholics at Mass. Well worth a read – it's on the web.

BEST EDITORIAL/OPINION PIECE

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

There were many good entries in this popular category and choosing the best was a challenge. It was refreshing to see very few grammar or spelling errors, unlike the trend in some secular publications. Layout and illustrations were often superb. Some entries were well-written, but better suited to categories covering news stories, in depth features or devotional articles. Clearer wording for this category's future description has been suggested.

BEST COLUMN

GOLD

Madonna

'Raise a glass' by Michael McGirr

A good anecdote is the key to any magazine column. McGirr's story of the couple and their champagne glasses, which then transforms into a reflection on the nature of relationships and the nature of glass and Christ's light is a simple but kaleidoscopic piece of writing. McGirr shows a depth of human and artistic wisdom which makes him stand out as one of the Australian religious press' best writers.

SILVER

Zadok Perspectives

'A spirituality of church on Sundays' by Alison Sampson

A reflection on why being good and ethical is not quite enough. It is a great example of a type of "questioning column" - which opens up deeply personal questions for the reader and at the same time gives them some basis for which to start a conversation with friends and family about a topic. I like the line: "It seems to me that the Way of Jesus Christ requires regular communal top ups."

BEST FAITH REFLECTION

GOLD

Shalom Tidings

'I've got my eyes on you' by Reshma Thomas, March/April 2019

There is no better way to convey faith than through personal stories. This is a touching first-person journey of faith from a mother's perspective after a difficult pregnancy and birth, only to learn that her child is disabled. You can feel the mother's pain and anguish in her every word, and her enduring faith in God. The message is that God does hear our prayers but doesn't always answer them exactly as we had planned. The article is also accompanied by a delightful baby photo and a creatively apt headline that grabs you on first sight, all making this a most deserving winning entry.

SILVER

Eternity

'Faith as big as a canola crop' by Rebecca Abbott, May 2019

This is an inspiring story of faith and miracles in a rural context. The author beautifully relates the story of a central west NSW farmer who put his trust in God in the midst of drought and reaped the harvest. It's a prophetic narrative of what can be achieved when faith overcomes despair. The farmer's down-to-earth quotes leap from the page and make this a heartening experience to read.

BRONZE

War Cry (NZ, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa)

'Is there such a thing as too much grace?' by Jules Badger, July 2019

The author probes the mysteries of grace in this personal account which dissects the verses of the hymn Amazing Grace. Writing it almost as a prayer, verse by verse she bares her soul, reflecting on her trials and tribulations to better understand God and his precious gift of grace. Backed by scripture references and quotes from a number of theologians, this is a story worth meditating on and the perfect tonic for anyone experiencing a moment of doubt in their life.

BEST THEOLOGICAL ARTICLE

GOLD

NZ Baptist

'Host and Guests in the Mission of God – Surrendering Power' by George Wieland

An article concerned with the need for us to reorient our understanding of Christian missional endeavour from being like a 'missional host', seeking to persuade people to accept our invitation to come into our space, to being a 'missional guest', seeking to be welcomed into another's space. The article is unpretentious yet profound. It is accessibly and engagingly written, moving confidently from the author's personal experience, to Jesus's role in the gospels as a guest more often than a host, to the stories from Acts about Peter in the household of Cornelius, to a discussion of being a missional guest rather than a missional host. Some fresh insights on Peter and Cornelius's household are displayed. There is a straightforward expression in the article which suggests that it may have started life as a sermon. The understanding of the imperative in missional endeavour for the surrendering of power is well presented. This idea is not new to missiology, but it may well be novel to many church congregations across the denominational spectrum and is absolutely essential for the contemporary Church. This gives the article a scope of vision and a clear relevance.

BEST THEOLOGICAL ARTICLE

SILVER

Zadok Perspectives

'On the gifts of street art' by Jason Goroncy, Summer 2019

In this article, Jason Goroncy argues that street art—in its antitheses, vulnerability, redefinition of proprietorship, in its concerns with alienation, poverty, greed and violence, and in its use of symbols and rituals — is a metaphor for the gospel. Further, street art has the capacity to communicate to people outside of the traditional faith communities who would otherwise remain untouched by the gospel. This is very exciting entry and I very much enjoyed reading it. It presents ideas which, though mainly not original, need to be made available to a wider Australian audience. The article is well referenced, including to overseas theoretical material. I suspect that the content would not be as immediately accessible as that of some of the other entries, but it is nevertheless appropriate for Zadok's readership. The article presents an argument important to the field of missiology, but it contains very little overt theologising or use of Scripture. It was also not entirely clear to me from reading the article what its main purpose is. Is the article seeking to bring to the attention of the reader the richness of street art and its relationship to Christianity, or to commend street art (which of its nature is anarchic) as a strategic tool for mission in the postmodern era, or to recommend that Christians make more effort to 'read' street art? Or is it all three or none of the above?

BEST THEOLOGICAL ARTICLE

BRONZE

The Melbourne Anglican

'NT's women show us God's inclusive plan' by The Revd Canon Prof Dorothy A. Lee FAHA,
September 2019

This entry provides us with a remarkably concise yet comprehensive summary of the place of women in the economy of God, as recorded in the New Testament. The article discusses the evidence of the gospels, and the Pauline and Deutero-Pauline epistles. The article concludes that the New Testament attests to the equality of women and men within the home and the church, as well as in the secular arena, and that 'complementarianism' is not in accord with the scriptural evidence. The article is remarkable for covering a great deal of ground in a most easily accessible way. It is a valuable resource in one page and shows the fruits of the author's very extensive research and writing experience in this field.

BEST SOCIAL JUSTICE ARTICLE

GOLD

Zadok Perspectives

'Milk, motherhood and the new misogyny' by Nicole Jameson, Autumn 2019

A well-argued, at times confronting, essay on the impact of postmodern gender ideologies on "real people". The struggles of transgendered and non-binary folk are real too – but "motherhood is not gender-neutral territory, and mothers deserve better than to be neutralised".

SILVER

War Cry (NZ, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa)

'Lasses, live up to your privileges and stand up for your rights' by Jules Badger, September 19

An impressive history of the ups and downs of gender equality and the role of women in the Salvation Army since its radical beginnings.

BRONZE

The Good Oil

'I don't want slaves working for me' by Sarah Puls, February 2019

This telling article points out that slavery – the buying and selling of humans – still happens today. Many women and children are forced into prostitution; others are made to work in slave-like conditions in places such as cocoa farms in West Africa and sweatshops in Bangladesh. Pointers and resources for action are included.

BEST REVIEW

GOLD

Southern Cross

'Sticks and Stones' by Judy Adamson, review of the film *The Final Quarter*, August 2019

One of two entries about this film which has obviously touched a deep Australian nerve. This wins because of its very good headline and presentation as well as managing to get across fact as well as emotion, in her response to its challenging content.

SILVER

Eureka Street

'On first reading Bouchani on Manus' by Andrew Hamilton, review of the book *No Friend but the Mountains: Writing from Manus Prison* by Behrouz Bouchani, May 2019

A wide-ranging, intelligent and thoughtful article reminiscent of the London Review of Books. Being on the web gave this review the advantage of having no word limit, but it kept up the pace to the end.

BRONZE

NZ Catholic

'The Importance of Liturgy in the Ecumenical Journey' by Dan Stollenwerk, review of the book *Did the Anglicans and Catholics agree on the Eucharist?* By Colin Buchanan, Feb 2019

There were two good entries reviewing publications on doctrine and faith, a difficult subject to make lively and readable, and this prevailed thanks to its crisp sentences and placement in context.



**DESIGN
&
CREATIVITY**

BEST COVER MAGAZINE

GOLD

The Real Australian

Winter 2019 issue - This Fabulous Century, by Janine van den Tillaart, Rebecca Jee, Ted Brush

A simple image that was well balanced and showed good use of colour. A moving image, it stayed with me.

SILVER

Aurora

November 2019 Issue 196, by Peter Stoop

This cover has an intriguing image. The reader asks, 'What does this mean?'.

BRONZE

Wesley Impact!

'Christmas 2019 issue – Home for Christmas, by Amanda Bailey, Esther Pinn, Arlingtonlane Photography

A well-balanced cover with general interest and consistent styling.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Flourish

2019 issue, by Catherine Smith

BEST COVER NEWSPAPER

GOLD

The Southern Cross

April 2019 edition, Jenny Brinkworth

This striking image conveyed simply and effectively the context and highlighted the publication name, the faith base of the connected article, the faith foundation and readership base of the publication. The whole cover provided a solid focus for its target audience and encouraged connection and readership in a contemporary way.

SILVER

Touchstone

April 2019 edition, Ady Shannon

One is drawn immediately to the photo and this is an excellent photo for a cover because people would have been aware of the context. This cover and article series could also connect with a wider non-church audience. A slightly larger version of the photo and larger centred headline and perhaps one article underneath would have crystallised the intent and focus.

BRONZE

The Melbourne Anglican

December 2019 edition, Ivan Smith

The stylised drawing provided an effective way of highlighting Christmas as the tinsel elements could be drawn upon in an overall look, and along with the brief reflective poem this provided a clear focus for the cover and theme of the edition.

BEST COVER NEWSPAPER

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

This was a very diverse group of entries and illustrated some of the issues with contemporary covers and the perhaps increasing search to stand out from the crowd. A cover needs to convey immediate visual appeal that clearly connects the stories. Many covers today are far too dense, and the headlines and cover-lines provide minimal help for the reader and are sometimes not even well-positioned in terms of connection to the photos. In this increasingly visual age, covers need to have strong visual photos and/or images and well-positioned headlines and cover-lines. The publication name should also stand out. Ideally the format of the publication name should be unique, like a logo, so that the reader can build up a connection with the publication and with a first glance, know that this is 'their' publication. Overall, the cover needs to clearly present the nature of the publication, through images and the headlines and cover-lines.

BEST DESIGN MAGAZINE

GOLD

War Cry (NZ, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa)

SILVER

The Record

BRONZE

Shalom Tidings

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

This was an excellent category to judge, with overall a high standard of entries. A word of caution, make sure your entry fits the requirements of the category and you don't do something that risks your entry not being judged. Overall there was a good balance of white and used space on each page; although with a few exceptions for most publications. The entries were rich in storytelling, imagery and topics – thank you.

BEST DESIGN NEWSPAPER

GOLD

The Southern Cross

The Southern Cross newspaper stands out as a church newspaper today. Much like USA Today did in a previous time with its move to a colour base, The Southern Cross illustrates the way colour and design can be used to draw readers in. It has remarkably distinct typography, making it easy to read, and the design arrangement within a 'compact tabloid' format allows the reader to follow articles as entities.

In this visual age, excellent photos are not optional, and the strength of the newspaper is evident in the overall design that is based around a comprehensive linking of articles to photos. The photos are a key for a contemporary newspaper and the quality, given the number of photos is exceptional. The photos draw one into reading the articles, and because many of the photos are wonderfully taken portraits and groups, together they provide an image of a warm community wanting to connect, and that is increasingly needed in this age of social distancing.

BEST WEBSITE

GOLD

The eRecord

What is this website? It tells you straight away: "The best in Catholic news from across the Archdiocese of Perth". I am immediately engaged and ready to read. The navigation bar is simple and comprehensive. Social media links are also made overt. The latest news is actual news - George Pell talking about his time in jail. Scrolling down the page, it gets a little 'busy' and stories and boxes could be better set out. Being able to immediately change the text size is a fantastic innovation, especially for older readers. There is plenty of engaging content which is targeted to its audience. A strong effort. A clear winner.

BEST PHOTOGRAPHY

GOLD

Touchstone

'Prime Minister (NZ) hugs a grieving man' by Rev Dr Betsan Martin

The emotional reaction, when viewing this photo, is outstanding. As a cover photo, it attracted the reader to enquire further for the background and subject matter. Photographically, the point of interest, in the top right area, is well placed and personally, I love the bleed out of the frame. Technically, the horizontal arm creates a firm base for the subject matter.

SILVER

Wesley Impact!

'Gilan' by Tim Pascoe

Here is "high impact photography" at its best. The positioning of the lighting; the lead-in from the right to the model's face and the creative exposure, is to be congratulated. The image creates an interest and curiosity in the article being published.

BRONZE

Aurora

'Rare books recall our social history' by Peter Stoop

The brightly lit person-of-interest, is an attention highlight, followed by the subject matter at the left, at the base. The focus has been carefully chosen, placing the background out-of-focus, yet showing sufficiently the titles on the "rare books." The cropping in the final publication is also to be congratulated.

BEST PHOTOGRAPHY

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

The variety of submissions this year covered an increase in posed and prepared photographic assignments, as well as those taken spontaneously, during an event. The entries indicated preparation in lighting, layout, composition and technical detail. Sensitive, emotional and representative involvement were handled with care and concern.

BEST HEADLINE

GOLD

Eureka Street

'Game on: pollies, follies and lollies' by Andrew Hamilton, 3 April 2019

The only online entry in this category, it wins for alliteration, humour and the ability to stand out from the welter of commentary surrounding the 2019 Federal election.

SILVER

The Salvation Army - Kidzone

'Hope is where the heart is' by Cheryl Tinker

A beautifully-presented page with the headline front and centre – clever but not too subtle, given its target audience. Unfortunately a slight 'marketing' tone – it echoes the motto of the annual Red Shield Appeal – reduces its spontaneity a little.

BRONZE

The Lutheran

'Taking hay while the sun shines' by Lisa McIntosh, March 2019

Enough of a word play to draw the eye, good header illustration and an accurate reflection of an interesting story.

BEST ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION

GOLD

The Salvation Army - Kidzone

'Loaves and fishes' by Rod Allen

This colourful illustration attracts the attention of the reader and presents the Biblical story in a clear and meaningful presentation.

SILVER

Southern Cross

'The great Australian vice' by Stephen Mason

The illustration and title attracts the reader to the subject of the article. The artwork is creative and emphasizes the desire of a broad range of people headed in the same direction.

BRONZE

The Record

Issue 21 – October 2019 by Feby Plando

This colorful cover attracts attention, with its all-over colour and subject matter. The reader would be involved in "effective communication."

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

The variety of artwork, placement and creativity, illustrates the range of presentations and artists available in the variety of publications.

BEST SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

GOLD

anglican focus

#AprilAngel

This was a purely organic Facebook campaign (ie no paid advertising). The submission addresses the specifications of the section ie a written brief, accompanying insights and stats and a sample of posts showing engagement. The campaign emerged out of the horror of the Christchurch mosque attacks in March last year and was designed to encourage members of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland diocese to be an April Angel of hope. Anglican Focus confessed that the task was a challenge, as they were coming from a low bar, having had no posts and therefore no engagement on their Facebook account for 11 months. But that did not stop them, and perhaps there lies a good lesson for us all. Sometimes you just have to take the risk and give it a go. Their posts were shared and commented upon. Each week had a different theme and provided some content upon which to reflect. Keep experimenting anglican focus. It's worth the effort.

BEST SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

Christian organisations are not known for being early adopters. In fact, some might say many of our organisations are not even keeping pace with a world that is rapidly changing. I say this to express my disappointment that there are so few submissions for this section. Dear colleagues, surely you know that this is where you must be! If you don't have the skills, no doubt you can find someone who would love to take on such a challenge. Why don't you set a plan for your publication to implement one social media campaign in 2021. Read the criteria for this section. You are not being asked to change the world...even the first sentence acknowledges that change takes time. "Will exhibit creativity and high level of engagement relative to the account's following". As a result of low number of entrants, there is only a Gold winner.

BEST YOUNG WRITER

GOLD

Australian Catholic

'To follow the light of a star' by Nevie Peters, Summer 2019/20

This is a delightful short story with a creative new angle on the Three Magi from the Orient who followed a star to find the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. With deft touches of humour, this entertaining but thoughtful story keeps us absorbed from start to finish. Well done, Nevie Peters.

SILVER

War Cry

'Justice League: Live from New York' by Bethany Slaughter, 5 October 2019

This article describes the inspiring journey of New Zealander and Salvationist, Dr Laurelle Smith, an academic from Otago University who now works as a research analyst for the Salvation Army's International Social Justice Commission in New York City. Laurelle, who has a PhD in Pediatric Medicine, had a heart for mission but never imagined herself working in Manhattan. God, however, had other ideas. Laurelle says promoting justice is a personal responsibility, and that "everyone has a responsibility to do something." This is a well-written story of a young woman whom God is using to bring hope to many communities around the developing world.

BEST YOUNG WRITER

BRONZE

New Times

“Cycling for Christ’ by Tasha Crumpler, February/March 2019

This is a feel-good story about South Australian Matthew Glaetzer who became a champion professional cyclist. A keen sportsman since his early teens, he had started to make a name for himself as a pole vaulter, but ill health forced him to abandon this discipline. In his mid-teens he made a personal commitment to Christ and soon found success and satisfaction in triathlons. His achievements culminated in a win at the 2018 Commonwealth Games where he set a new sprint record. Glaetzer’s Christian outlook on competitive sport has helped to keep him grounded amidst huge pressures and expectations to succeed. Tasha Crumpler has written a readable article with clarity and simplicity.

BEST ENEWSLETTER

GOLD

The eRecord

The three issues submitted reflected very effectively and in a timely manner, the events and people of the archdiocese and the wider issues of the church. Excellent use of photographs along with quality writing and the occasional well-produced video. The only question was one of font size and type if the readership includes those with aging eyesight. Otherwise, all three productions are first-rate.



Thank you and
congratulations to all
our ARPA Award
winners for 2020.

AUSTRALASIAN RELIGIOUS PRESS ASSOCIATION

A COMMUNICATION NETWORK
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND