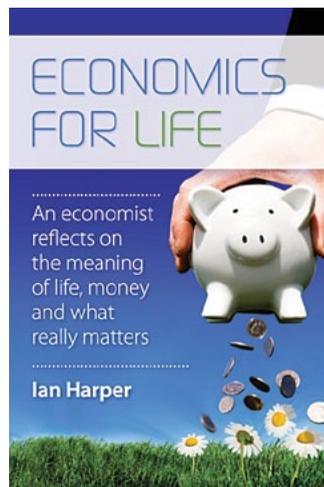




AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN LITERATURE AWARDS

2011 Australian Christian Book of the Year



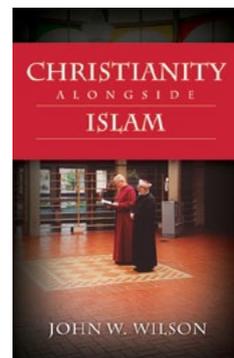
Economics for life:
An economist reflects on the meaning of life, money and what really matters

Ian Harper
Acorn Press
ISBN 9780908284955

For those of us who do not read the Australian Financial Review at breakfast and struggle to make sense of the financial report on the nightly news, *Economics*

for Life will be a pleasant surprise and a revelation. Simply written, but not simplistic, this book provides a concise history of the birth and growth of the Australian financial system and the development of public policy. The discussion of world events such as the recent global financial crisis is enlightening. Harper examines his faith with the same honesty and discipline that have made him a successful economist and authoritative media commentator. He shares with the reader his journey rethinking economics as a Christian in order to release people from material want and deprivation. Economics is for life, but not all of life. Harper communicates with precision and passion. The result is personal and profound. This book represents an opportunity to engage with a vital but often misunderstood discipline.

2nd Prize

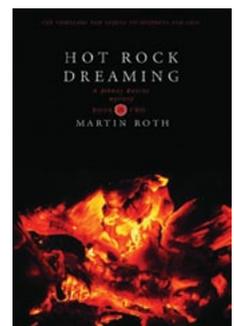


Christianity alongside Islam

John Wilson
Acorn Press
ISBN 9780908284832

This scholarly but very readable book places Christianity and Islam side by side. Sound and broad research traces the development of these two Abrahamic faiths from their foundation to the present day. The author compares their sacred writings, values, ethics and ways of relating to the world. An antidote to sensational headlines, his writing is informed, well reasoned and respectful yet unflinching. Works of art, photographs and boxed biographies serve to give one of the most pressing issues of our time a human face.

Short-listed

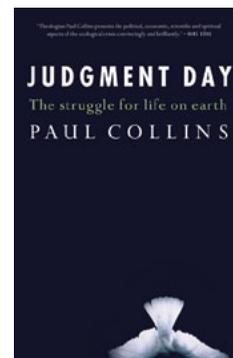


Hot rock dreaming:
A Johnny Ravine Mystery

Martin Roth
Ark House Press
ISBN 9781921589287

Hired to investigate the death of an Aboriginal painter, private detective Johnny Ravine is drawn into a complex mystery as dangerous as it is intriguing. Environmental politics, land rights and Aboriginal spirituality are explored with subtlety. For the hero and reader alike there is a valuable lesson to be learned about the importance of discerning which voice is proclaiming life and love when all is not as it seems. A compelling novel.

3rd Prize

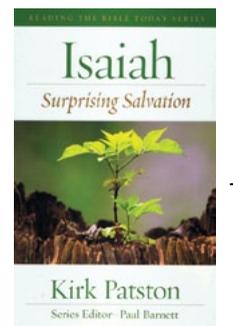


Judgment day:
The struggle for life on earth

Paul Collins
UNSW Press
ISBN 9781742231563

A prominent historian argues persuasively for an urgent response to global warming and overpopulation. His assessment of Christianity's role in precipitating the current problem is hard-hitting but balanced. Collins urges Christians to rid themselves of their contempt for the material world by reminding them that in both the natural creation and Jesus himself, the divine and transcendent enter into the very process of material existence. God takes the world seriously. So should we.

Short-listed

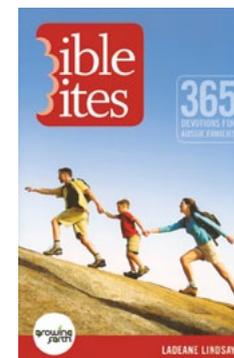


Isaiah:
Surprising salvation

Kirk Patston
Aquila
ISBN 9781921460432

The author steps beyond the controversies of authorship and dating which have preoccupied the study of Isaiah for so long by attending to the more practical matter of how its message might be received by readers living 'after Sennacherib, after Cyrus and after Jesus'. This is a refreshing way to explore the multiple layers of this monumental book of the Old Testament. Patston is rigorous and insightful yet clear, fluent and accessible.

Short-listed



Bible bites:
365 devotions for Aussie families

Ladeane Lindsay
Youthworks
ISBN 9781921460517

A welcome companion for parents who wish to open and share God's word in that most challenging of environments: their own home. The material is engaging and presents the 'big picture' of the Bible yet can be expanded or contracted as appropriate. Don't be fooled by the page-a-day format, illustrations and friendly feel: the probing questions, guides to prayer, spiritual challenges and wide variety of activities will be as useful in schools and at camps as they are in the home. A vital step towards restoring Bible literacy.

Short-listed



The rag doll

Stephanie Carmichael & Jessica Green
Matthias Media
ISBN 9781921441745

A simple tale of a small girl's desire to play with a rag doll proceeds from a common family drama to an opportunity to teach children about the loving God who made them and all people. The illustrations are warm and intimate and the story models the very thing the author hopes parents will do themselves: use the opportunities that crop up each day to talk to their children about God.

Judging criteria

The Australian Christian Book of the Year Award is given annually to an original book written by an Australian citizen normally resident in Australia and published by an Australian publisher. The award recognises and celebrates excellence in Australian Christian writing.

The Award carries a prize of **\$2,500** for the author, and a framed certificate for the author and publisher. A short list is announced in July and the awards are presented during August. Supplementary awards may be made.

Entries are judged with an eye to the:

Original nature of the work.

Literary style, including suitability for the target audience.

Competence and expertise displayed by the author in writing the book and examining the underlying thesis.

Design, layout, cover, text and illustrations.

Contribution that the book makes in meeting a need for Christian writing for the Australian situation and in the Australian market.

Judges

Libbey Byrne is a member of the Religious Sisters of Charity of Australia and currently serves on their leadership team. Libbey has degrees in theology and education and a masters degree in spirituality. She has been a secondary school teacher, trained religious education teachers for NSW state schools and now works in adult faith formation and spirituality. Libbey enjoys reading, movies, body surfing and the company of friends.

Alex Crawford holds degrees in arts, law and theology. He is a practising barrister in Brisbane. Outside the law, he is interested in books, music and seeing the Brisbane Lions win. Alex is married to Penny. They have three adult children and attend St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield. He is the secretary of the Mathew Hale Public Library based in Brisbane.

Allan Demond is Senior Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Melbourne. He holds degrees in philosophy and theology and a PhD in education and homiletics. Allan teaches at Whitley College, Victoria, and the Australian College of Ministry. He enjoys good books, beautiful music and rare Aussie stamps. Allan is married to Janet, an artist. They have three adult children.

Coordinator

Michael Collie SPCKA National Director



2011 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award Winner



Amber Holmes

Sunshine

An accident involving his best friend, Jem, precipitates Seth's descent into agoraphobia. News of Jem's death months later marks the beginning of Seth's journey back to the outside world. We are not only taken into a teenage

boy's own trauma, but also witness its impact on the rest of his family. The writer vividly evokes conflicting emotions. Confronting a seemingly hopeless situation, some family members turn naturally to prayer. Others only pray when all else has failed. Their prayers bring no easy answers, but do chart the possibility of healing and a way forward.

'That's it,' she declared to herself, storming up the steps. 'I won't allow him to do this anymore. He's going to walk out of this house if it's the last thing he does. I don't care if I have to drag him out kicking and screaming.'

Seth stood frozen with his back against the wall ...

'Seth? Seth!' his mother called. 'Se- oh, there you are.'

'Wh-what's going on?' he replied, trying to sound casual, but his nervous laugh didn't help him much.

Without another word, Seth's mother grabbed his arm roughly and pulled him back downstairs with her. Seth hurried to keep up in his confusion realizing she was not joking.

'No, stop!' he cried, planting his feet firmly against the ground as he tried to resist her pull.

His heart beat wildly as he stared at the door. 'Mum, no! Mum please don't make me!' he shrieked, arms flailing wildly...

'You need to get over this, Seth!' she cried. 'You can't live your whole life hidden in a room. I won't let you!'

Seth sobbed loudly. 'I can't go out there ... I can't!'

'Why not?' she demanded. 'What is so hard about walking out this door and breathing in the fresh air?' To prove her point, she strode out the front door and stood in the front yard. 'Look at me, Seth. Look, I'm fine.'

Seth looked up, his heart still beating rapidly, and his throat seized up. Mum, he tried to say. Mum, get in the house. It's not safe. But the words wouldn't come out of his mouth. He couldn't save her. It was happening all over again. He started to feel dizzy and before he knew it his eyes had rolled backwards and everything had gone black.

2nd Prize



Christy Tobeck

Who are you anyway?

During a girls' weekend away, five friends deal with a range of issues including self-image, family sickness and relationships. One by one each girl faces her own challenges and with the encouragement of her friends and biblical truths is able to re-evaluate herself and her situation and leave the beach house with new courage. Memories, internal conversations, interaction with friends and familiar Bible texts are woven naturally into a story narrated by the mirror we meet in James 1:23-25.

I surveyed the empty room; it was late and for someone that doesn't sleep, these were the most boring parts of the day. Through the blinds the moonlight cast a lined shadow over the room. Everything was quiet; the only sound was the tick-tock, tick-tock of a small clock on the wall. A light was suddenly turned on and Dana walked past me into the kitchen, pouring herself a glass of water. Glass in hand she stared out the window at the endless waves crashing on the shore. She watched their repetitive movements for what seemed like forever. In the dark she could see the white crashing water falling over and over again. The sound of the waves rolled over her mind. She was getting lost in her memories, the laughter they shared, the moments that had made her fall for him. She poured her water out into the sink, not a drop had been drunk, and sat down on the couch, putting her head in her hands, quietly starting to cry. She had just had another dream of what it would have been like if he had loved her back, if they were together.

'Why is it so hard?' she asked me, staring at herself.

'Every day is a struggle. Some days I'm really depressed, and others I'm angry. I can't believe I lost my first love to an idiot not even worth my time. I'm so stupid, how did I let myself get so caught up?' She looked away, ashamed, her eyes full of regret, crying softly. I wanted to show her what I could see, the things that made her loveable. The things on the inside, the only things that mattered, but all I could do was to keep reflecting her from the outside. All I could do was wait and hope that someone else would show her the inside.

Certificates of Commendation

Marcus John

What makes a good leader

Shawn Koh

Christian character

Caitlin Robertson

Learning to trust again

Audilia Sujanak

Homeland visit: Indonesia

Joshua Taylor

The way I see it

Judging criteria

The **Young Australian Christian Writer Award** carries a prize of \$2,500 and is given annually for the best unpublished manuscript written by an Australian citizen under 30 years of age. This award was withheld in 2011.

The **Australian Christian Teen Writer Award** carries a prize of \$1,000 and is given annually for the best unpublished manuscript written by an Australian citizen under 18 years of age.

Supplementary awards may be made.

The winning works will explore a Christian perspective or theme and incorporate, explain or encourage Christian life and values. Entries are judged with an eye to the:

Original nature and content of the work.

Literary style, including suitability for the target audience.

Contribution that the work makes in meeting a need for Christian writing in Australia.

Coordinator

Michael Collie SPCKA National Director

SPCKA

The Australian Christian Literature Awards are administered by the Australian Christian Literature Society. An activity of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia Inc. PO Box 198, Forest Hill, Victoria 3131, Australia Telephone 1300 13 SPCK (that's 1300 13 7725) awards@spcka.org.au | www.spcka.org.au
Igniting Christian writing

Books submitted

Access Ministries

Jonathan's journey,
Evonne Paddison

Man-hunter,
Richard Smith

Sisters of the Son: Volume 1,
Various

Acorn

A house divided?

*The quest for unity within
Anglicanism,* Tom Frame

*Christianity alongside
Islam,* John Wilson

Economics for life:

*An economist reflects on
the meaning of life, money
and what really matters,*
Ian Harper

One step at a time,
Robyn Claydon

Allen & Unwin

Seeking the sacred:

*Transforming our view of
ourselves and one another,*
Stephanie Dowrick

ALSO

Louisa the Brave,
Valerie Ling

Anglican Historical Society

Shepherds in new country:
*Bishops in the Diocese of
Canberra and Goulburn,*
Bill Wright

Anglican Youthworks

*Bible bites: 365 devotions
for Aussie families,*
Ladeane Lindsay

Let's talk about parenting:
*Everyday advice for raising
kids,* Tony & Judy Willis

Aquila

Isaiah: Surprising salvation,
Kirk Patston

Ark House

*A full life: The adventures
of a Christian aid worker,*
Vivien Wilson

And some by virtue fall:

*An innocent man fights
for his integrity as he is
framed for a crime he did
not commit,* Peter Connor

A spirited journey:

*A devotional for horse
lovers,* Karen Moreton

Broken pottery:

The life of an African girl,
Jennifer Ann

*Giant killers: Overcoming
the giants that rob you of
your best life,* Tim Hall

Heidi's October,
Penelope McCowen

Hot rock dreaming:
A Johnny Ravine mystery,
Martin Roth

Jenna: A novel,

Jo-Anne Berthelsen

Missionaries in action:

*A collection of inspiring
stories from real people in
the mission field,* Various

Nobody hugs Rod Green,
Jenny Glazebrook

Baptist Churches of SA

*Jesus and life: Word
pictures in John's gospel,*
Dr Doug Rowston

Ruth M Bradbury

*Fiji Wilson: Wesleyan
missionary and minister,*
Ruth M Bradbury

Broughton

*Interpreting Francis and
Clare of Assisi: From the
Middle Ages to the present,*
Constant J Mews &
Claire Renkin (Editors)

Christian Education Publications

*10:10 Exploring Jesus' offer
of life: From St John's
gospel,* Debbie Tarrant
Connect, Various

Dark Horse

Brinn: War in her veins,
Jotham Kingston

David Lovell

*Sure beats selling
cardigans: Fostering our
relationship with God,*
Patrick O'Sullivan

Deep Line Books

*Jim Morrison Jesus
complex,* Wayne Grogan

Devenir

*She will run: Fast track
your personal relational
and spiritual development,*
Suzie Bottross

Even Before Publishing

*Far from home: Poems of
faith, grief and gladness,*
Andrew Lansdown

The missing motorcycle,
Paul Clarke

*All creation sings: Psalms
of everyday Christians,*
Various

*God's poetry: The identity
and destiny encoded in
your name,*
Anne Hamilton

Judging Meghan,
Trudy Adams

Charles Fivaz

Heartland: A parable,
Charles Fivaz

Marianne Gill-Harper

Parables, Maz Gill-Harper

The Hanerda Trust

*Above the line:
Reshaping relationships
and community in the
21st Century church,*
Peter McHugh

Harper Collins

*Mary MacKillop's sisters:
A life unveiled,*
Anne Henderson

Betty Hocking

Why?, Betty Hocking

John Garratt

*Love's urgent longings:
Wrestling with belief in
today's church,*
Bishop Geoffrey Robinson

*Our fathers: What
Australian Catholic priests
really think about their
lives and their church,*
Chris McGillion &
John O'Carroll

*A friendly guide to
the New Testament,*
Francis J Maloney

Matthias Media

*God is enough: Refocusing
your life,* Ray Galea
The rag doll,
Stephanie Carmichael
& Jessica Green

Morling

*A new kind of Baptist
Church: Reframing
congregational
government for the
21st Century,*
Brian Winslade

New Creation

*Marriage and the good
news of God,* Martin Bleby

Organisational Development International

*Building spiritual
enterprises: Bringing
the Kingdom of Heaven
through business,*
Wayne Back

Poetica Christi

Everyday splendour,
Various

Kerryn Redpath

Out of the darkness,
Kerryn Redpath

Salt & Light

Birds and fish,
Claire Osborne

Rob Scriven

Tributary of trust,
Rob Scriven

Signs

*Bill's battle of the bull:
And other bush adventures,*
Errol Wright

*Can we still believe the
Bible? And does it really
matter?,* Bryan Ball

*Ordinary people, generous
God: More stories of faith
and commitment,* Various
*Pastor George: The story
of the first Aboriginal
Adventist pastor,*
Nathan Brown

Silby, Fiona

*My Daddy, my freedom:
One woman's
transformation from
encountering the heart of
God,* Fiona Silby

Ken Smith

*The return of Jesus: What
he and his apostles taught,*
Ken Smith

Spectrum

*No fixed address: Faith as a
journey,* John Bodycomb

Strand

Open house: Volume 3,
Sheridan Voysey

Tabor

*When we step out,
God steps in,* Barry Chant

UNSW Press

*Judgment day:
The struggle for life on
earth,* Paul Collins

UWA Press

*Ciara's gift: Grief edged
with gold,* Una Glennon

Vision Colleges

The blood covenant of God,
Denis Plant

Wombat

Many-coloured realm,
Anne Hamilton