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rewarding excellence

Auckland

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Australasian Catholic Press Association
Awards for Excellence 2017

CATEGORY 1

Best News Story

Winner

“Are you buying slavery-free products?”
Debra Vermeer, *The Good Oil*.

This story breaks news on the issue of slave made goods and the Church’s questioning of supply lines. It has become a topic in media outside religious media and was well researched with multiple sources or voices in the story. The writing is crisp with an interesting lead par.

Highly Commended:

“Hero Refugee” The Catholic Leader.
Mark Bowling

A lively news story which looked behind a dramatic event to provide more details and to promote a positive story on refugees. All the necessary facts are included about the bus fire and the detail of “hero’s” actions are set out in brisk form.

CATEGORY 2

Best Feature Story

Winner

Wilcannia-Forbes: A new horizon for the church in the back of beyond
by Sharyn McCowen
The Catholic Weekly

A good feature starts with a compelling story, but also needs solid research, context and good story-telling. Sharyn McCowen has delivered that in the story of the struggle for the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes to survive and the challenges taken on by its new bishop, Columba Macbeth-Green. McCowen's feature engages the reader to appreciate the challenges of the enormous outback diocese and the faith that Bishop Columba has had in the region and its people. It's an inspirational story, but it's also an important story highlighting an often overlooked issue that was given the treatment it deserved.

Highly commended

Experts warn against following overseas experience with euthanasia
by Debra Vermeer

Debra Vermeer has produced a solidly researched and written feature on the controversial issue of euthanasia, or assisted dying. It's an important exploration of the international experience with legalised euthanasia as Australian states, such as Victoria, again explore introducing such laws. She's located and cited experts to provide the depth needed for this type of work. It raises relevant questions, such as lax application of the laws and a greater than expected number of deaths, that tend to get overlooked in the public debate on this highly emotional subject.

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CATEGORY 3

Best Editorial

Winner

*The Southern Cross –
The powerlessness of a baby*
by Jenny Brinkworth

Jenny Brinkworth's use of an anecdote about the arrival of a new baby in her family to reflect on power in the church is compelling and thought-provoking. The short editorial discusses how institutional dynamics within the church contributed to failures to protect children from abuse. The conclusion about the importance of humility will have left readers with much to think about.

Highly commended

WelCom – "Time to challenge secularism"
by Emeritus Bishop Peter Cullinane DD

Bishop Cullinane's well-argued editorial discusses the danger of a "reductionist secularism" which seeks to exclude God from the public square. While agreeing with the Second Vatican Council that 'Christians can have more than a little to do with the birth of atheism', he argues persuasively that by surrendering to God's love Christians can "become participants in God's love for the world."

CATEGORY 4

Best Column

Winner

Fr John Jegorow – *The CrossRoads News*

Fr John had some great competition for this award, but your columns stood out to me. The reason that they were impressive is that he has an amazing ability to communicate his message with clarity! His use of topical issues such as happiness, peace and the message of Easter allow us to see that his work communicates a message to Catholics living in the world today. I also believe this message would be very attractive to those who no longer belong or participate in the Church in formal ways. The columns communicate the beauty of the Catholic tradition in a way that touches the readers heart and mind.

Highly Commended

Louise Carr-Neil – *Tui Motu Interislands*

Louise is a thoughtful and enthusiastic young writer who cares about various issues such as self-care, grief and treading lightly in the world. The reader can see her personality and her heart when it comes to issues that are important not only to her, but to many readers, especially the Gen-Y audience. Her ability to tap into a place in people's hearts and stimulate discussion is to be commended.

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CATEGORY 5

Best Headline

Winner

*The Catholic Weekly –
Latin fundraiser – it’s extraordinary, rite?*

All the elements are here. Fits the space and the story perfectly while working on a couple of levels. And has a twist that provokes a thought and a smile.

Highly Commended

*Catholic Outlook –
Wing and a prayer for Year of the Rooster*

Another good entry that shows creativity and fills the headline space exactly.

Best Mission Coverage

Winners

About Catholic Schools

Fairfield school offers hope of new home –
Bernadette Bain

Bernadette's insight into the school and what it offers the local community is inspiring! The story covers much ground in a concise way, that is, she shares the importance of this Catholic school being a place of welcome and openness to the 'other'. This is significant in a world when sometimes the 'other' is avoided or ignored. This was, and still is, an important message from the gospels – that it is our duty as Catholic organisations to respond to the other in the same way Jesus would have responded. Congratulations on capturing this special story about a part of Sydney that has had a long history of being a home for many migrants and refugees across the world for many generations.

The Fiji Times

Faith Formation and Renewal on
Mago Island

Fr Ioani Vodosiro

Fr Ioani's ability to write an important story about a very small community of people living on an island was heartening. The joy and love expressed for these people was touching, but more importantly he seemed to receive much from being part of this community. The story reflected the importance of gathering as a community and supporting one another, given their diverse faith backgrounds. As I read this article I thought of the late Bishop Michael Putney who spoke to me some years ago about working with people of all faiths and none, and the joy this can bring to our Catholic communities.

Highly Commended

Kimberley Community Profile

The Cross

Bishop Christopher Saunders

This story reminded me of the Latin meaning of the word mission – to send. The story captured the sending out so well, the cross was for and amongst the people as it journeyed through various villages and towns. The community took the cross of 'hope' to the people, it did not wait for the people to come to the cross inside a church. These types of mission experiences can never be quite measured or captured, in terms of the difference they make to the life of the community. But, I am convinced the message of hope and love was well and truly alive as the cross took on its journey to the people.

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CATEGORY 7

Best Social Justice Coverage

Winner

Visiting the Imprisoned
Tui Motu InterIslands

Skilful editing has brought together a wealth of views by devoting almost the entire issue of this independent Catholic monthly to exploring this corporal work of mercy, as one of a series in the Year of Mercy. The editorial places the issue of visiting those in prison within the context of “practising community.”

Editor Ann Gilroy rsj has drawn together a wide range of contributors working at grass-roots level in parish and community-based groups, as well as informed comment from experts such as the Children’s Commission in New Zealand (a former youth court judge), an academic qualified in criminology, and an Australian Jesuit who is a professor of law.

Layout is stellar; a poem by a Palestinian prisoner runs across a two-page spread; a similar space is occupied by an imaginary conversation between a well-heeled woman and her imprisoned cousin, told by well-known New Zealand fiction writer Joy Cowley. There is a strong focus throughout on restorative justice and alternatives to prison.

Highly Commended

From the streets to helping others
Jenny Brinkworth
The Southern Cross

Pope Francis often insists that the focus of social justice is always people, not statistics. Here is a feature that tells the story of one young woman who escapes from the spiral of drugs, unemployment and harmful relationships to choices that have turned her life around.

Alicia shares her story, with astonishing frankness, in the hope that others may move through hardship to reach out to the networks of support that could make a difference to their lives, too. The writer lets Alicia tell her story in her own words, but the carers and agencies that have helped her on her journey are never far from sight. A well-displayed photo sets the seal on this heart-warming and hope-filled feature. A footnote leads to a video which features a recently launched social-impact bond scheme that is making a real difference to human lives.

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CATEGORY 8

Best Education Coverage

Winner

The Record Magazine

Writer Marco Ceccarelli

Editor Jamie O'Brien

This article was engaging and informative showcasing a whole of person approach to education through the passion and devotion of teacher Rod Dowling, highlighting the link between physical education and religious formation. "...a healthy lifestyle requires looking after the internal as well as the external aspects of one's body... not focussing solely on achievement and success and become the people who they were created to become."

Highly Commended

Broken Bay News

Editor Melissa McLoughlin

This edition showcased a vibrant series of articles and photographs that celebrated collaborative and creative educational outcomes whilst looking to acknowledge those who have less.

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CATEGORY 9

Best Article on Catechesis

Winner

The Crossroads News, Fr John Jegorow

In this piece Fr Jegorow offers readers a reflection on a Gospel reading, the Widow of Nain, before making a link to the Sacraments available in the Church for those facing ill-health and/or preparing for death. This is followed by a critique of the reading by literary figure Oscar Wilde, and the account of Wilde's own suffering and ultimate conversion at the end of his life. It presents a neat yet powerful catechesis.

Highly Commended

The Good Oil, Patty Fawkner SGS

With *The Pattern of all Life*, Patty Fawkner seeks to define the term 'Paschal Mystery'. Her reflection opens with a personal reflection on an experience of facing and dealing with loss, with a view to recognising that life is changed not ended. She then provides a framework for others to understand this in light of Christ's death and resurrection to new life. Finally, she challenges the readers to identify this process of transformation in their own life.

CATEGORY 10

BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education Award for Best Devotional Article applying faith to life



Winner

Attending to each patient
by Stephanie Kamp
Tui Motu Interlands, June 2016

Pope Francis calls us to be instruments of mercy. I think Stephanie's account of what it means to be a junior doctor in a New Zealand secondary hospital, and how it is that she relates to sick people and their families, is a witness to Pope Francis' invitation. In short, I think this article is an original and engaging personal narrative, that touches on how someone can apply their faith to life. I judge this article as the winner in this category. The author is ought to be congratulated and encouraging for her ongoing work!

Highly Commended

Aussies helping plan Synod, WYD
by Emilie Ng,
The Catholic Leader, 19 March 2017

This article is distinctly different to the others in this category, and it is for this reason that I judge this article as "highly commended". This article – written simply, yet beautifully in every sense of the word – includes an account of how Ashleigh Green represented Australia at an international meeting to discuss, plan and prepare for World Youth Day Panama, as well as the upcoming Synod on the Youth. What an achievement for Ashleigh!

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CATEGORY 11

Best feature – Multiple Authors

Winner

Tui Moto Interislands magazine

Tui Moto's feature on environmentalism was a well thought out manifesto. Many entries in this category failed to grasp the importance of visual appeal: if you want people to read something, it has to have an appealing design. Tui Moto's coverage not only looked good, but it was thoughtfully written and covered many different aspects of the subject. It was well-presented using photographs and artwork. Clearly the designer was thinking broadly about the visual content. Overall it made for a thought-provoking and eye-catching read.

Highly commended

About Catholic Schools

About Catholic School's Wellbeing edition was a slick production, which would have been very readable to its target audience. Some of the content and certainly the photos were a tad generic, however. It could take a leaf out of Tui Moto's book in better linking its content to its audience.

CATEGORY 12

Best Original Photograph

Winner

The Catholic Weekly – Called
Giovanni Portelli

This category encourages excellence in photography. Frequently submissions are based simply on emotional subject matter, often telling us only what ‘might have been’. A lot goes into a great photograph. Technical excellence, a fabulous layout and an eye for the story within each image are vital. In an editorial context such as with the publications represented here, relevance to the text carries enormous weight. The bar was set very high this year but technical competence and understanding of the moment set this image apart. That the publication could afford to tuck such a shot away on page 17 is astonishing.



Highly Commended

Melbourne Catholic
Rachel McLaren

Very difficult to choose just one Highly Commended this year. What sets this image apart is the simplicity in composition married with a dramatic page layout and a challenging set of technical requirements. A lot of risk and that lines up nicely with the publication’s design principles.



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CATEGORY 13

Best Original Artwork

Winner

NZ Catholic
Steve Monson

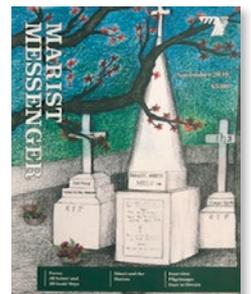
Original art work is challenging, along with talent it requires those rarest commodities: budget and time. Editorial illustration can easily miss the mark and cartoons slide quickly into smug self belief if not given appropriate thought. The winner treads this narrow path with elegance, a nice take on the visit of the Vatican Astronomer to Australia and New Zealand in 2016. It has a warmth that captured the tone and considerable good will generated in both secular and religious press during the visit. A simple comic device, well supported by a ready likeness of Brother Consolmagno and nicely linked to celebrate the publications own 500th anniversary issue.



Highly Commended

Marist Messenger
Fr Peter Healy SM

To see a cheery illustration that fits well within the charter of a publication and celebrates some home grown talent ought to be encouraged. Importantly this illustration does a very nice job, fits well within the seasonal changes that its readership have witnessed when this arrived on the kitchen table and has a great feel.



CATEGORY 14

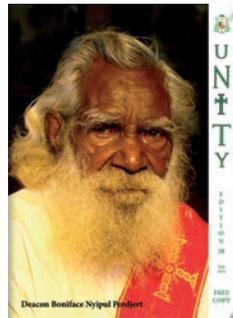
Best Magazine Front Cover

Winner

Unity Magazine

The criteria for this category call for “a real eye-catching seller” and the September 2016 issue of the Diocese of Darwin’s *Unity Magazine* stood out in the field of 16 entries.

An image in which the subject makes eye contact with the potential reader is a great advantage in magazine cover design. Mark Crocombe’s soulful image of Deacon Boniface Nyipul Perdijert, Australia’s first permanent deacon, does this in a striking manner. The only improvement I could suggest would be a more dynamic headline.

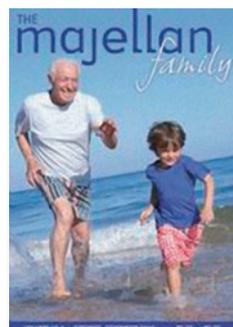


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Highly commended

Majellan Magazine

The active image of age and youth on a beach is neatly balanced by the typography to present an appealing cover.



CATEGORY 15

Best Newspaper Front Cover

Winner

The Catholic Weekly

The *Catholic Weekly* has produced a timely, and evocative front page for the Easter period front page, 16 April 2017 edition. The image of a penitent saint – in this case the Apostle Peter – as a vehicle to cover the topic of Resurrection instantly makes a human connection to the reader. The layout demonstrates good understanding of the Gutenberg principles of reading attention, and complements the succinct headline writing throughout. Pointers at the bottom of the page provide ample opportunity for topical and engaging stories to turn to. This is what good special interest newspapers should always aspire to.



Highly Commended

The Catholic Leader

The *Catholic Leader* of 12 March 2017 immediately captures the attention of the reader with its arresting and topical coverage of a crisis in South Sudan. The use of a high impact news photograph from the scene of the tragedy is matched by a quote that tells the story within the one page. Local connections are also made with its Queensland readership, and demonstrates a journalistic skill with the pointers beneath the masthead. With the old adage that news is what people are talking about, the *Catholic Leader* has set the topic for conversation with its dominant front page.



CATEGORY 16

Best Layout & Design – Online Publication

Winner

The eRecord

Design elements, such as the attention-grabbing header image and responsive “hero images”, are successfully incorporated throughout this readily navigable ePublication. Thematic design elements are also consistent throughout which is the hallmark of a well-designed and carefully considered publication. The designer’s smart use of layout and proportions, including allowing for sufficient white space, enhances the overall reader experience. The eRecord’s use of a bold colour (red) to draw attention to the title of each article illustrates how effective a simple pop of colour can be. The eRecord’s content is also easy to read and share.

Highly Commended

Eureka Street

This well-designed online publication has both unity and visual consistency throughout. The choice of images, colours and style are all conceptually related and, in a sense, provide an insight into the personality of this widely read ePublication as well as helping Eureka Street to connect with its target audience. Eureka Street’s content is readily accessible, very easy to share and its social media elements are well integrated.

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CATEGORY 17

Best Layout & Design – Magazine

Winner

Melbourne Catholic

The winner of this section is, simply, a breath of fresh air. Possibly not everybody's cup of tea, it is stark, clean, easy-to-read and, as a result, different from many of its peers. It is well-balanced design-wise and makes excellent use of that black sheep of most publications, white space. It also avoids another pitfall by using a bare minimum of fonts. From the front cover to the back this magazine is simple, and it works beautifully.

Highly commended

Kimberley Community Profile

The runner-up in this section is the polar opposite to the winner. It is bright and breezy and colourful, more newspaper coverage than laid-back magazine, faces galore, endearing, catchy, and it seems to reflect the heart of its community.

CATEGORY 18

Best Layout & Design – Newspaper

Winner

The Southern Cross

The use of generously sized full-colour photos throughout this 24 or 28 glossy-paged monthly makes this an attractive and easy paper to read. The overriding image of the church it reflects is that of the people of God, women as well as men, young and old, rather than one dominated by clergy and religious. There is a good mix of local and international stories. Complex theological and ethical issues – such as living with terminal illness – are presented through the lens of personal experience. A signed editorial is a warm and personal addition to the paper's regular features. The inclusion in each issue of a page listing Mass venues and times in Adelaide and a neighbouring diocese is an excellent service, though an age when this information is also widely available online raises the question of whether the space might be better devoted to a lively letter column.

Highly commended

The Catholic Leader

Skilful use of large colour photos and bold headlines on the front page invite readers into each issue of this Brisbane-based weekly newspaper. An attractive colour-coded Contents panel on an early inside page guides readers to such regular features as news, centre point, talking point, entertainment and people ('humans of the church'). A steady focus on social justice and pro-life issues mirrors the priorities of the local church. One recent feature outlined strategies for standing up to physically abusive men. A letters column is supplemented sometimes by '4 Corners' – a sampling of responses to a topical question, with identifying photos and captions of respondents. The paper lacks an editorial feature.

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CATEGORY 19

Most Improved Publication

Winner

Journey

Editors Daniel Hopper, Julie Hennessy

This magazine has transformed itself into a quality publication. The use of better printing stock, vastly improved design and an expanded focus on content that reaches out to non-Mass going Catholics makes *Journey* a clear winner.

Highly commended

The Far East

Editor Fr Daniel Harding

In its 99th year, a new design and layout for *The Far East* has rightly won praise from readers. An excellent read, full of good news about people doing good work in the most unusual places.

CATEGORY 20

Best Use of New Media

Winner

Broken Bay Diocese – Instagram

This entry made a strong and quite successful effort to use Instagram, showing an understanding of the audience and the platforms they love to use.

Highly commended

Parramatta Diocese – Our Lady of Fatima

Video producer and creator:
Jordan Grantham

This video was created to promote the 100th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady of Fatima via Facebook. It was well shot and produced with limited resources. It was viewed 22,500 times.

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CATEGORY 21

Best Advertising Feature/ Supplement

Winner

The Catholic Weekly
Steve Richards

A polished publication that covers all the bases. A great deal of thought, time & energy has gone into this and it shows. It has also been very well supported with advertising and those advertisements have been placed strategically so as to maximise space and flow for the benefit of the reader. Congratulations and very well done!

Highly commended

NZ Catholic

A very clean and tidy layout with effective use of the space available. The old photos add another dimension as do the featured breakout quotes. Well done!

CATEGORY 22

Best Ecumenical/Interfaith Story

Winner

*The Southern Cross –
Putting God back in the picture*
by Jenny Brinkworth

For its layered engagement with an interesting person and event across denominational boundaries – and histories.

Highly commended

*Tui Motu InterIslands Magazine –
What Happened after that Note
on the Church Door*
by Tim Cooper

For its important and accessible backgrounding contribution towards enabling ecumenical endeavours.

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CATEGORY 23

Best Online Publication

Winner

About Catholic Schools –
Editor Bernadette Bain

This was the standout publication. The layout is simple and useable, the content was varied and not excessive. The videos are not compelling but this is still the best at doing what it is supposed to – engage the target audience.

Highly commended

Cath Family e-Newsletter –
Editor Marilyn Rodrigues

A simple format that works well for its target audience of families and younger people.

CATEGORY 24

Best Print Magazine

Winner

Melbourne Catholic –
Editor Tina Mattei

Our Catholic magazines for some time have been at the cutting edge in terms of content and production quality. There is, of course, always room for the next step, a little extra. This winning entry takes some design chances but there is much to like about its points of difference from the run-of-the-mill, its engrossing and intelligent content, its easy readability and its attempts to engage with a young mature audience as well as a traditional one. It should be encouraged to explore its character further. Personally, I hope it does.

Highly commended

Tui Motu Interislander Magazine –
Editor Sr Ann Gilroy

In such a strong field, picking a runner-up is perhaps even more difficult than selecting the winner. Three or four entrants at least were in the running. This one, year on year, continues to give, and is, bluntly, a darn good read every issue. Others would arguably outdo it in design, but not in content that tugs at the heart-strings, that engages the intellect and that urges me to turn to the next page.

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CATEGORY 25

Best Newspaper

Winner

The Catholic Leader –
Managing Aditor Matt Emerick

The Catholic Leader is a page-turner, primarily owing to its breadth of coverage across issues relevant to Catholics and, I suspect, the broader community. Real people with genuine stories feature on its pages and they are written well – plenty of facts, quotes and enticing lead paragraphs backed up well. The words, photographs and easy-to-navigate page layout make this easy to read and indicate a hard-working and slim editorial team in tune with readers. There’s a common thread in the issues being judged – excellent representation of the human experience and issues that matter in daily life.

Highly Commended

The Catholic Weekly –
Editor Peter Rosengren

The Catholic Weekly stands out with its comprehensive coverage of issues that impact many and stretch across continents. The newspaper achieves this through a vast collection of voices without retreating from covering complex matters that impact people of all ages. Photographs are big, bright and bold and the neat layout serves the content well. Each issue presented shows a consistency in delivering high quality content that lives up to its slogan “The Church. All of it”.

The Bishop Philip Kennedy Memorial Award for Overall Excellence

Winner

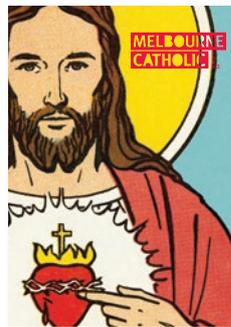
Melbourne Catholic
Editor Tina Mattei

It is a real treat as a judge to be called on to absorb the efforts of three quality products. Less easy and enjoyable, however, to separate them.

All three contenders are noteworthy for their efforts to connect with their chosen audience in a way that is engaging and provocative yet respectful and simple.

The winner stands out for its quality of content and its imagination, but also its simplicity of presentation. It has the feeling of being put together by a team that takes great care and also is skilful in its planning. Quality contributors do take some finding and sifting out from the easy picks and the usual suspects.

The winner is able to hold its own in the company of products outside the narrow religious and church environment. It will be interesting to see how far its producers are able to take it in the next 12 months.



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