

The Fountain of Public Prosperity

*Evangelical Christians in
Australian History 1740–1914*

Stuart Piggin and Robert D. Linder



2019 Australian Christian Book of the Year

**The Fountain of Public Prosperity:
Evangelical Christians in
Australian History 1740–1914**
Stuart Piggin & Robert D. Linder
Monash University Publishing
ISBN 9781925523461

This gripping and impressively researched book puts evangelical Christianity at the centre of the Australian story, from the eighteenth century through to World War I. It begins by recounting the friendship between a First Fleet officer, Lieutenant Dawes, and some of the Indigenous Eora. It goes on to introduce female suffragists and missionary workers, Chinese evangelists and moral reformers—a wide range of people who imagined their community and its future through the eyes of faith. Professors Piggin and Linder have devoted decades to unearthing the story of ‘Christlike citizenship’ in Australia, and the result is a fluent work of national and international importance. Offering a radical revision of some of the received wisdom about our nation, it can be read from cover to cover, enjoyed in sections and revisited as a reference. A landmark account of the enormous influence of evangelicals in shaping modern Australia.

Judging criteria

The **Australian Christian Book of the Year Award** is given annually to a book written by an Australian citizen normally resident in Australia. The award recognises and celebrates excellence in Australian Christian writing. A shortlist is announced in July and the award is presented during August. The award carries a prize of \$3,000. Supplementary awards may be made. Entries are judged with an eye to the following:

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

Darren Cronshaw pastors the Auburn Life Baptist Church in Melbourne. He has doctorates in practical theology and missiology and postgraduate qualifications in linguistics and education. He is Professor of Missional Leadership and Head of Research with the Australian College of Ministries and serves as Chaplain with the Australian Army Reserve. Darren is married to Jenni; they have three children. He keeps fit with the Hawthorn Triathlon Club.

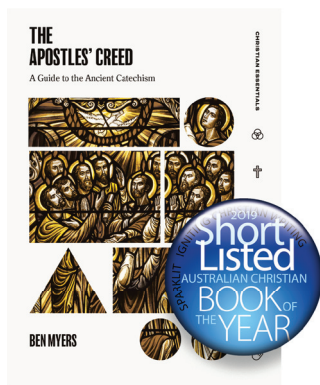
Meredith Lake is an historian interested in the ways Australians have understood the big questions of faith and meaning. In the ten years since she completed her doctorate she's had three children and written two books, including the 2018 Australian Christian Book of the Year, *The Bible in Australia: A Cultural History*. She lives with her family in Sydney and is currently the host of Soul Search on ABC Radio National.

Judith Nichols is married to Tony. They have four children and fourteen

grandchildren. She has a doctorate in classics and ancient history and qualifications in theology, missiology, education and linguistics. Judith and Tony have ministered together in Indonesia, with Indigenous Australians at Nungalinga College and trained missionary candidates. She coordinates women's ministry at Dalkeith Anglican Church, Perth.

Coordinator

Michael Collie
National Director, SparkLit

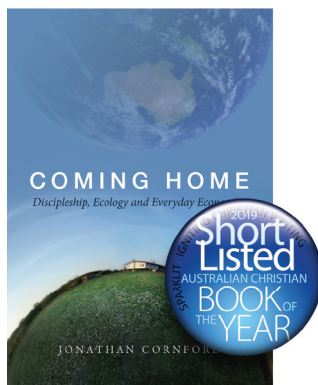


Shortlisted

The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism

Ben Myers
Lexham Press
ISBN 9781683590880

This brief but brilliant book gives the reader fresh eyes for an old statement of faith. Ben Myers discusses each article of the Apostles' Creed in turn, recognising the points where it offends the sensibilities of our sceptical age. He brings early Christian writers into the conversation to show us there is nothing new about our current preoccupation with gender, authenticity and autonomy. Myers pays due attention to the priority of Scripture, and weaves together theology, history and tradition. This is a warm, accessible and contemporary appreciation for those who know the Apostles' Creed well and those who don't know it at all. A gem.

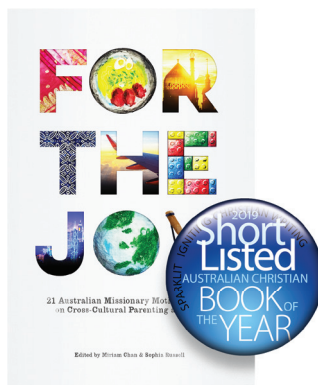


Shortlisted

Coming Home: Discipleship, Ecology and Everyday Economics

Jonathan Cornford
Morning Star Publishing
ISBN 9780648453727

To restore ecology and economics to their place within the household of God, Jonathan Cornford suggests that Christians begin by placing Christ at the centre of their homes. He gently helps us to examine the real costs and benefits of the way we live and to reorder our lives so that we might all live well. This book is not puritanical, legalistic or overwhelming but it is certainly challenging and countercultural. Full of practical advice about work, leisure, debt, investment, consumption and hospitality, *Coming Home* shows how we can set about fulfilling God's mandate to care for his creation in all its facets.

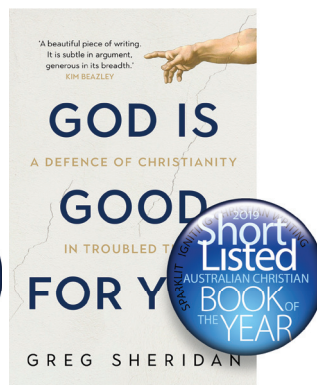


Shortlisted

For the Joy: 21 Australian Missionary Mother Stories on Cross- Cultural Parenting and Life Edited by Miriam Chan & Sophia Russell

Grace Abounding Books
ISBN 9780648163718

Women engaged in a range of missionary enterprise share the often unspoken struggles that mothers face. Separated from family, misunderstood by friends and immersed in cultures vastly different from their own, they face loneliness, isolation and conflicting attitudes to child-rearing. The stories about the murder of a husband and sons or waiting for news of a child caught up in a terrorist attack are shattering. Other chapters show women responding creatively to a lack of amenities and children struggling in an alien landscape. There is no triumphalism here; just quiet confidence and joy in Jesus.



Shortlisted

God Is Good for You: A Defence of Christianity in Troubled Times

Greg Sheridan
Allen & Unwin
ISBN 9781760632601

A prominent national journalist investigates the future of Christianity in Australia. His reporting is wide-ranging and adventurous. His insights are reasoned and sometimes surprising. Sheridan analyses the contribution Christians have made to our understanding of ethics, morality, human rights, justice and secular politics and describes the role Christians will play as a minority. He continues by probing the beliefs of politicians and concludes by telling the inspiring and moving stories of ordinary Christians. Confident, personal and persuasive.



Shortlisted

Heaven All Around: Discovering God in Everyday Life

Simon Carey
Cascade Books
ISBN 9781498278852

The winsome and personal journey of a personal journey from a conventional, practical to an inclusive, actualised spirituality. A pilgrimage from involvement to involvement demonstrates how a nation dislodged between heaven and affirms our life. Insights are from Scripture, experience as a teacher, and a Christian thinker has much wisdom advice on how we can honour God in our ordinary experience: in the home, neighbourhood, work and supermarket.



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Shortlisted
Tea & Thread:
Portraits of Middle Eastern Women Far from Home
Sally Bathgate & Katrina Flett Gulbrandsen
Grace Abounding Books
ISBN 9780646972831

An exquisite celebration of the gift of hospitality and the art of listening. Seventeen women who have been displaced by the terror of war in the Middle East share what they carry in their hearts: recipes, arts, crafts and stories. A compassionate and patient posture will be rewarded with hibiscus and cinnamon tea, delicious lamb and yoghurt pilaf, olive oil and beeswax body balm, and, of course, friendship. Beautiful and moving.



Shortlisted
This One Life:
Conversations on the Journey of Life
Sharon Witt
Collective Wisdom Publications
ISBN 9780648373216

A popular teacher, author and advocate gets personal in order to offer young women an antidote to the toxic voices—both internal and external—that persuade them that they will never be good enough. Together, Witt and her readers take risks, build confidence, overcome obstacles, forgive, live with anxiety, find their vocation and dare to dream. The text is enriched by hundreds of sketches, photos, quotes and memes. Owners of this unfinished journal are invited to record their own story.



Shortlisted
Unexpected:
Leave Fear Behind, Move Forward in Faith, Embrace the Adventure
Christine Caine
Zondervan
ISBN 9780310351245

An international speaker and campaigner against human trafficking leads us along the path to joy in an uncertain world. Because of our relationship with Jesus we can embrace life's threatening experiences with confidence rather than self-preservation and fear. The author practices what she preaches and willingly shares her doubts, flaws and struggles as well as her spiritual highs as she learns to trust Jesus. Bold, brave and compelling.



Shortlisted
Workshop 2:
How to Flourish at Work
Kara Martin
Graceworks
ISBN 9789811172342

In this fine sequel to her previous book, Kara Martin demolishes the popular heresy that there is a dichotomy between our everyday work and spiritual life. Each chapter provides a biblical and eminently practical response to a challenge common in the workplace. This is followed by lively discussion questions, a relevant prayer and resources for further exploration and application. Bullying and stress are wisely handled and the author deals creatively with unexpected topics. If you think hospitality in the workplace begins and ends with drinks after work, you will be pleasantly surprised. An excellent book for workers and those who pastor them.



2019 Australian Christian Teen Writer Award

Winner



Kristen Koon ***Spread Your Wings, Songbird***

Lark got straight A's at high school but struggles to make the transition to adulthood.

Music becomes an avenue for progress, purpose and love. This story is hopeful and has enough latitude to engage the non-believer.

An extract from ***Spread Your Wings, Songbird***

For the first time in my life, I was scared. A quick glance at my shaking hands confirmed that I was experiencing this feeling thought to be 'normal,' although my swirling doubts and sweaty palms said otherwise. My restless fingertips met the hem of my red plaid skirt and I sipped the cherry coke that was placed invitingly in front of me.

"Next we have Lark Blakely performing a few songs on the piano."

Grunts sounded in response, accompanied by a smattering of applause which jolted me back into my surroundings. The paint chipped walls accompanied by the dim, vintage lights was not a pleasant setting to be in. Although I had played the piano all my life, and aced every exam without any nerves

present, my palms felt unusually sweaty and I could feel light beads of sweat on the back of my neck. Silently cursing myself for signing up to play in a dingy bar as my first 'gig,' my feet found their way up the small steps. As I settled onto the smooth, leather seat, my eyes searched for the manager and he gave me a half-interested thumbs up. My nerves leapt when I realised the amount of people in the bar and I held my hands over the piano, willing them to plonk down on the keys and play the tune that I had played millions of times before. Seconds passed, maybe a minute, but all time had stopped for me. All I could feel was the slight quiver of my hands and the soft sound of my shallow breathing. Why wouldn't my hands play what my brain was telling them to? Defeated, I stood up. The seat flew back as I rushed off the stage and straight towards the manager of the bar, mumbling apologies and that I wouldn't need a paycheck. My cheeks burned with humiliation and I choked back the tears that threatened to spill out at any moment. Whipping my coat harshly around my shoulders, I stepped out into the cold, wintery evening and strode away without sparing a single glance back.

Second Prize

Sharon Jeikishore ***Hope in the Unseen***

Third Prize

Lwendyl Anderson ***The Days and the Years***



2019 Young Australian Christian Writer Award

Winner



Eden Annesley ***Tom and Eva***

Suspicion and hatred envelop a small town following the death of two women. The humour, tension and

bullying among the teenage protagonists is real and topical. From beginning to end the narrative is strong, nuanced and engaging. As the mystery unfolds, God's love and care are gradually revealed.

An extract from *Tom and Eva*

Tom wandered his way along the streets in the dark. His father was waiting at home, probably in a deep silence. It was tempting to fall back to his refuge, the happy home down the end of a muddy lane. But he found himself heading along another route.

Eva's front windows were alight. Fairy lights cast pink shadows on the wall.

Tom knocked and her face appeared.

"Tom!" she exclaimed. She wrapped him in an enormous bear hug.

"What was that for?" Tom smiled a little.

"That's what friends do," declared Eva.

"Come in. We're eating Chinese to celebrate."

Hank Carmichael swallowed his salt and pepper squid audibly upon seeing Tom. But Tom only smelt the wafting scent of fried rice

and pork. He smiled at Hank's face as he seated himself opposite.

"Dad, go and find us some sauce, why don't you?" coaxed Eva. Her father was quick to answer. It was an uncomfortable spasm that sent him racing into the next room.

"He's scared, you know," said Eva thoughtfully. "The McFarlanes will be in disgrace, and probably him as well."

She shot him a wide blue stare. "You must be happy. They'll have to suffer what you did."

Tom shrugged. "I don't care. That's not important now. I feel free. And not just from this town, but from Veuve and ... what my mother did to us."

"Harold told me," said Eva simply. "And no one else knows."

"Thankyou," said Tom. It felt so wonderful to have a friend, to have someone who understood, after years of darkness.

Eva grinned. "And that reminds me. Adam owes you an apology."

"I should hope so," remarked Tom.

"I made a deal with him," said Eva cunningly. "If he was wrong about your family, he had to apologise to you."

Tom felt a raw ache to his ribs. "And Hugh?"

"Some sheep never change their ways," said Eva. "Adam, despite his idiocy, his mediocre good looks, his sports-hero physique, does have the tiny beginnings of a conscience."

Tom laughed. "But you thought he was hot."

Eva blinked thoughtfully. "Y-e-s, I did. But all that fear, it does something to the face, doesn't it?"

"I guess," shrugged Tom.

"You know it!" she called back. She suddenly jumped up. "Movie marathon tonight. Popcorn, cheesy horror and ice cream sundaes."

"Like when we were kids?"

"No," smiled Eva. "Like we are now."

Tom pretended to consider it. "I have a lonely father at home."

"He can come," offered Eva. She was popping a little now, the excitement in her eyes invigorating.

"I suppose," sighed Tom. "For old time's sake."

"Indeed," she said with a smile. She raised her plastic cup in a mock toast. "To friendship."

"Freedom," echoed Tom as the plastic clunked.

"And to Tom and Eva," she concluded.

Second Prize

Zoe Boyle
La Monde

Judging criteria

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

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.

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 following:

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.

The 2019 Australian Christian Literature Awards were announced and prizes presented in Melbourne on Thursday 15 August 2019.

The Australian Christian Literature Awards are administered by SparkLit (The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia Incorporated and the Australian Christian Literature Society)

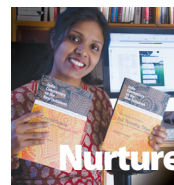


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Titles submitted for the 2019 Australian Christian Book of the Year Award

Acorn Press

Christ Centred Mindfulness: Connection to Self and God, Katherine Thompson

Confessions of a Meddlesome Economist, Ian Harper

Albatross Books

Adam: The First Human? Tom Croucher

Red Alert: Does the Future Have a Church? Gil Cann

Allen & Unwin

God Is Good for You: A Defence of Christianity in Troubled Times, Greg Sheridan

Anglican Press Australia

Shadows of the Cross: Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament, Michael Raiter

Aquila

Esther: For Such a Time as This, Peter Adam

Ark House Press

Almost Schmidt, Gregory Pearce

Know Yourself Loved: A Miraculous Story Unfolds When a Muslim has a Dream of a Man in White, Guryel Ali

Australian Scholarly Publishing

Anzac Spirituality: The First AIF Soldiers Speak, Daniel Reynaud

Authentic

Finding Faith: Inspiring Conversion Stories from Around the World, Naomi Reed

Cascade Books

Awakening Desire: Encountering the Divine Feminine in the Masculine Christian Journey, Irene Alexander

Heaven All Around Us: Discovering God in Everyday life, Simon Carey Holt

Collective Wisdom

This One Life: Conversations on the Journey of Life, Sharon Witt

Connor Court

Gender Wars in Christianity, Guy Manuell

George from Jindivick: From Small Town Farmer to Big Cheese, Vickie Janson

Coventry Press

A Multicultural Odyssey: A Memoir (Almost) Sans Regrets, James Houston

Joy Interrupted: A Memoir of Depression and Prayer, Geoffrey Lilburne

Turning in Time: Poems in Search of Home, Denham Grierson

Frendrussi Press

Weird, Crude, Funny & Nude: The Bible Exposed, Tom French

Garratt Publishing

Archways to the Infinite: My Journey Towards the Transcendent, Peter Murnane

Jesus the Forgotten Feminist, Chris Geraghty

Glenn Cox

The Adventures of Roger the Chicken: Roger the Ninja Chicken, Glenn Cox

Grace Abounding Books

The Chappo Collection: Life, Laughter, Leadership, Love in the Lord Jesus Christ, David Mansfield

For the Joy: 21 Australian Missionary Mother Stories on Cross-Cultural Parenting and Life, Edited by Miriam Chan & Sophia Russell

Tea & Thread: Portraits of Middle Eastern Women Far from Home, Sally Bathgate & Katrina Flett Gulbrandsen

Graceworks

Workshop 2: How to Flourish at Work, Kara Martin

Inspire Publishing

God Down Under: A Year with an Aussie Traveller, Richard Berlach

Lexham Press

The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism, Ben Myers

MediaCom Education Inc

Things that Jesus Did: Miracles of the Kingdom & Signs of Eternal Life, Doug Rowston

Monash University Publishing

The Fountain of Public Prosperity: Evangelical Christians in Australian History 1740–1914, Stuart Piggin & Robert D. Linder

Morling Press

Church Without Borders: Growing a Multiethnic Community, Mathew Kuruvilla

Reimagining Home: Understanding, Reconciling and Engaging with God's Stories Together, Edited by Darrell Jackson, Darren Cronshaw & Rosemary Dewerse

Morning Star Publishing

All Things New: God's Plan to Renew Our World, Mick Pope

Coming Home: Discipleship, Ecology and Everyday Economics, Jonathan Cornford

A Faith to Live By. Volume II: What an Intelligent Compassionate and Authentic 21st Century Christian Faith Looks Like, Edited by Roland Ashby

Iscariot, Mark Worthing Kingdom Communities: Shining the Light of Christ Through Faith, Hope and Love, Andrew Menzies & Dean Phelan

A Reckless God? Currents and Challenges in the Christian Conversation with Science, Edited by Roland Ashby, Chris Mulherin, John Pilbrow & Stephen Ames

To be a Pilgrim: A Reflective Guide to the Holy Land, Bradly Billings

The Way of the Rabbi: Stories of Discipleship from the Gospel of Mark, Jim Schirmer

Wise: Transforming Pastoral Ministry, Matt Brain

Navpress

Keep Christianity Weird: Embracing the Discipline of Being Different, Michael Frost

Olive Tree Media

Game Changers, World Shakers and Real-Life Superheroes, Ainsley & Jamie Freeman

Parenesis Publishing

Being Sam, Morag Zwartz

Piquant

Chase Two Horses: Proverbs and Sayings for an Everyday Spirituality, Charles Ringma

Sabbath Time: A Hermitage Journey of Retreat, Return & Communion, Charles Ringma

Rebecca Hayman

The Fraught Ambitions of a Man, Rebecca Hayman

Resource Publications

Come Eat with Me, Rob Douglas

Through the Thicket: A Tangle with End Times, Ivan Bowden

Signs Publishing

David's Triumph, Brad Watson

If You Can Eat ... You Can Make Disciples: Sharing Faith in a Multi-Faith World, Peter Roennfeldt

Of Falafels and Following Jesus: Stories from a Journey Through the Holy Land, Nathan Brown with Michelle Willis & Brenton Stacey

Thomas Nelson

The Making of Us: Who We Can Become When Life Doesn't Go as Planned, Sheridan Voysey

Wayne Back

Kingdom Culture: Transforming Individuals and Enterprises, Wayne Back

Zondervan

Evangelism in a Skeptical World: How to Make the Unbelievable News About Jesus More Believable, Sam Chan

Unexpected: Leave Fear Behind, Move Forward in Faith, Embrace the Adventure, Christine Caine

A War of Loves: The Unexpected Story of a Gay Activist Discovering Jesus, David Bennett