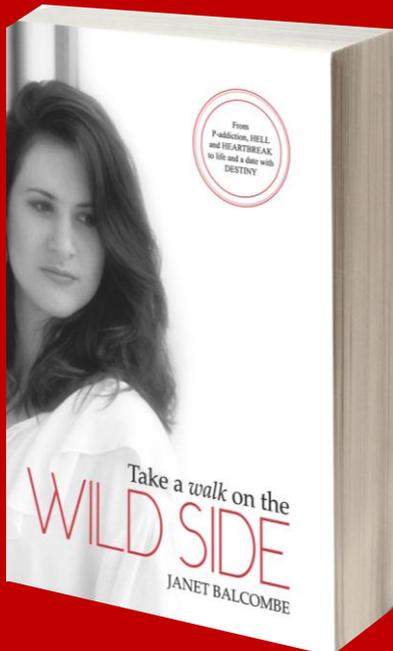


THE CHRISTIAN WRITER



October – November 2015



Supporting
Members' Writings

Take a walk on
the WILD SIDE

By Janet Balcombe

Rightly explaining the word of truth – 2 Timothy 2:15

(New Revised Standard Version of the Bible)



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The editor reserves the right to condense and / or edit any contributions for reason of space. Ideas and opinions will not be edited, but editing of a technical nature may occur to maintain the highest quality of writing possible.

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Oct – Nov 2015

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The views and opinions of authors expressed in this magazine do not necessarily state or reflect those of the editor.

Website:

Our vibrant, user-friendly website is full of interesting information, such as details of workshops and copies of past magazines. It also gives each individual member an online presence. So please encourage other Christian Writers you know to join us via our website.

www.nzchristianwriters.org

From the President

Greetings to you all.

It was great to see those who attended the Spring Seminar at Rossgrove Chapel on 19th September. I'm sure everyone enjoyed listening to Jeanette Knudsen and Richard Waugh. It was pleasing to see more were able to attend this time.

The AGM was also held that day, when we welcomed Rodney Hickman onto the committee and accepted Barbara McNaughton's resignation from the committee. Thank you Barbara for the work you have done while on the committee. Justin St Vincent has taken Jan's place as Vice-President. Thank you Jan for the hard work you have put in as Vice-President.

We would like to offer our sympathy to two of our committee members: Eion Field on the sudden loss of his sister, Mary, in China; and Beth Walker on the loss of her mother, Dorothy, in Christchurch. We'll be thinking of you both and praying for you at this sad time.

Congratulations to Fred Swallow on having his 'Writing Brief' on Pitcairn Island published in their local magazine.

I found this statement on an old *Choice Gleanings* calendar reading and thought you might like it. 'The one who wants to do something finds a way, the other finds an excuse'. And here's a portion of another devotion written by J Funk: 'In the service of God there is no retirement... Beware that temporal pastimes and hobbies do not steal away too many precious hours.' So, there goes my Scrabble!

May we not forget that time flies and we need to make every second count.

*Remember today, it will not come again
To share with another, to help in their
pain,
So read from God's Word and take time
to pray
Then seek with God's help to reach
others today.*

Janet Fleming



Barbara McNaughton (centre) being thanked by Janet Fleming and Debbie McDermott for her longstanding service to the committee and NZCW

Spring Seminar Report

The Spring Workshop was held on Saturday 19th September at Ross Grove Chapel in Auckland with 24 in attendance.

Janet Fleming shared a devotion on ‘Time flies, so make every second count’. Drawing on Scripture and her experiences, she encouraged us to use our writing skills to encourage others, help mend broken relationships, and, above all, share the good news of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:15-16.

The morning sessions were taken by **Jeanette Knudsen**—a former school teacher and now an author, a director of DayStar, and a travel writer. Jeanette has travelled extensively and has written four travel blogs:

www.silkspin.travellerspoint.com

www.moosepin.travellerspoint.com

www.rhinospin.travellerspoint.com

www.outbackspin.travellerspoint.com

Jeanette’s topic was on:

Creating Your Own Travel Blog

The principles she talked about also apply to other genre of writing and she used several examples from her blogs to illustrate the points made.



Jeanette Knudsen

The pre-requisites to travel writing?

Love to travel and enjoy your writing. Decide who your audience is: e.g. those who want to travel and the armchair traveller. Research your area of travel.

When to blog—on the trip itself or when you get home? Either way, keep detailed diary notes on the trip. Use your observational skills. Record your emotional reactions. Take lots of photos; they are invaluable.

The simplest way for travellers to become bloggers is to join an established site. Jeanette uses www.travellerspoint.com. It gives you a tally of how many go into each excerpt of your site. Some of her entries have over 10,000 visits!

Present your travel experience in an organised manner. It’s not a ramble. She writes in time sequence, but not everything has to be written exactly in the order you see it. Group like-subjects such as visits to museums or walks together.

The Text: Aim To Write Well

Choose a theme which acts as a thread through the blog. Bring out themes in each individual posting.

Show, not tell. Avoid saying something is interesting and amazing. Instead, show the reader with concise writing that draws them in and leads them to certain conclusions. For example, when they lost their backpack with all their travel info, Jeanette tried to show their stress and panic, rather than say they were stressed.

Include conversation: it adds variety to the text.

Paint little cameos with plenty of the right details: This is part of ‘show, not tell’.

Remember the rules for good writing.

1. Cut out adverbs—words ending in ly.
2. Cut out overused words such as really, little, very, totally, in reality.
3. Cut out the over-the-top adjectives, like wonderful, beautiful.
4. Spell properly.

5. Plan your opening and finish.
6. Avoid long sentences.
7. Make passive sentences active. ‘He ran’, not ‘he was running’.
8. Use simple words.
9. Revise. Proofread. Polish. Your writing is not ‘just’ a blog.

Make it interesting. Avoid ‘blogorrhea’—writing when you have nothing to say. Jonathan Yang, author of *The Rough Guide to Blogging*, says: ‘Don’t bore people with trivial encounters.’

In session 2, Jeanette suggested further ways of making travel writing interesting.

Make it personal. It is your story and you are the narrator. Use ‘I’. Take responsibility for your views.

Show your emotions—Tim Richards, a freelance travel writer, says the key to good travel writing is an emotional component. Show fear or horror, not just joy / delight.

Comment on culture or lifestyle. Share your point of view.

Include facts. Photograph plaques on your trip so you have some history. But don’t uplift large wads of factual material from Wikipedia. Find some quirky or unusual facts to include.

Avoid the mundane, like where you slept or what you had for dinner, unless it is worth telling.

Write about people. The human touch may be more interesting than places, museums and towns.

Include humour or tongue-in-cheek stories. Indulge in exaggeration as long as your tone is light.

Engage the shadows. Tell the negative parts too. When you remove the shadow, you remove reality. Don’t pretend everything is wonderful all the time.

Show your Christian world view.

There are dangers in dividing writing into secular and spiritual. If you are writing about your own experience, then you will be reflecting your values. Regard all as a service to the Lord, whether it is explicitly Christian or not. Pray about your writing. There will be opportunities to intentionally let your Christian or biblical world view be seen, even when your writing is not spiritually based. The trap is being super spiritual or unnatural. Keep it light and non-preachy. Your Christian world view is valid and you need to express it.

The afternoon sessions were taken by **Rev Dr Richard Waugh**, the National Superintendent of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in New Zealand.



Richard Waugh

In his spare time he is a prolific writer of aviation history, social history and theology. His topic was:

Research, Photos and Events—bringing history alive!

Richard became involved in writing after editing and rewriting his father’s autobiography which was unpublished. When the book was finally printed, Richard had the confidence and skills to launch into research and writing on his own account.

Though not a pilot, Richard grew up in an aviation family and became interested in researching the history of aviation in New Zealand. He has written (sometimes with

co-authors) numerous books on flying and also books on theology and social history.

Richard shared some of his observations and experience from his writing career.

1. **Tips for research.**

Research is an investment which takes considerable time and cannot be rushed. He gave the example of his book entitled *LOST*. It took more than two years in his spare time to write but was based on 30 years of collecting material and research.

Material has to be sourced from all sorts of places including people's attics and garages.

Eye witness accounts can be useful but not always accurate. Invite others to help and make appeals in the media for information and contacts.

2. **The importance of photographs and informative captions.**

A photograph can be worth 10,000 words!

3. **Layout creativity is necessary** for a quality product to compete with the best. Use memorabilia and other alternatives when no colour photographs are available. Get professional help to keep up with modern trends.

4. **The title, contents and back page are crucial** to the success of the book's marketing. Wrestle, rewrite and refine.

5. **Use the media** to promote your writing by looking for interesting angles. Build relationships with local newspapers.

6. **Planning book launches.** Do this long before your book is published. As many of Richard's books are concerned with events in our history, he looks ahead to anniversaries and celebrations coming up in the future

which he can tap into for his book launches e.g. the 40th anniversary of the Kaimai air disaster.

Think outside the box and arrange special events, venues and publicity to promote your work. Richard's success over the years is proof of this strategy with nearly 30,000 copies sold, with about 40 book launches organised with 2,500 people attending, and events involving more than 25,000 people.

7. **Theology of writing.** Not everyone is called to be an evangelist, but every Christian is called to be a witness. We're to be salt and light in the community and not just consumers but creative contributors. We must promote correct theology.

God can use a well written testimony to reach others.

Practical exercise: We were given a series of old photographs and invited to write suitable captions.

Overall it was an excellent seminar, well worth attending. As Christian writers we went away informed, inspired and encouraged. Plan to be at the next one if you can!

Practical exercises



New Zealand Christian Writers

32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 19th September 2015 at Ross Grove Chapel, Auckland

Minutes

24 people attended.

Janet Fleming chaired and Debbie McDermott took the minutes.

Apologies: Eion Field, Cindy David, Beth Roose, Yvonne MacDonald, Justin St Vincent, Catherine Hudson, Ruth Linton, Janet Pointon, Dorothy Finlay.

Minutes from last year not read but approved. Janet Fleming / Debbie McDermott

Financial Report read by Jan Pendergrast.

Total Funds: Balance at 31.7.15 was \$2,959.56.

It was noted that this significant improvement in funds is due to many members opting to receive the magazine digitally instead of by post, as well as to the 2014/2015 increase in fees and membership.

141 members as at 31.7.15.

Jan moved that her report be adopted. Seconded by Janet Fleming. (A copy of the report is available on request.)

Janet Fleming then read her President's Report (which has been published on page 9 of this magazine).

Committee:

Jan Pendergrast took the floor for the nomination and election / re-election of committee members.

Jeanette Knudsen nominated Janet Fleming for President. Seconded by Julia Martin.

Jan Pendergrast nominated Justin St Vincent for Vice President. Seconded by Debbie McDermott.

Debbie McDermott nominated Rod Hickman as a new committee member. Seconded by Janet Fleming.

Jan Pendergrast asked Sue Beguely if she would also like to stand. Sue agreed, after speaking privately with committee members to find out what being on the committee involved.

Jan Pendergrast moved that all members of the existing committee re-stand (with the exception of Barbara McNaughton who had previously requested to resign). Seconded by Dianne Spain.

Current Committee Members

Janet Fleming (P), Justin St Vincent (VP), Jan Pendergrast (Treasurer), Debbie McDermott (Editor), Beth Walker, Janette Busch, Eion Field, Fred Swallow, Julia Martin, Janette Busch, Rod Hickman, Sue Beguely.

Other Matters Arising

Janet Fleming expressed disappointment that so few members were attending the workshops. Debbie suggested filming the speakers and making the DVD available at a reasonable cost to members who were unable to attend the seminar.

The meeting concluded at 12:40pm, after which Barbara McNaughton was presented with a small gift of appreciation for her longstanding dedication and contribution to the committee and New Zealand Christian Writers.

President's AGM Report

Welcome to the 32nd AGM of New Zealand Christian Writers, but our first AGM under our new name. It's lovely to have you here today.

The 2014/2015 year has seen some changes with our new title and also our new website thanks in part to Justin St Vincent. I am sure the fact that members' profiles are on this website has encouraged an increasing membership. It's also lovely to see a number of younger members joining. At present our membership is 141.

It's great to see your entries in the magazine. Remember that the more times you enter will increase your chance of winning a prize. We do so appreciate those who take the time to mark and critique these entries—Debbie at Level 1, Janice at Level 2, Ruth, Level 3, and Vicki the Under 20s. Thanks so much.

Local Groups continue in various places around New Zealand. In the South Island we have the Christchurch group which is led by Dave Palmer. In a recent email he stated:

'I'm blown away that month after month the same people keep coming back and wanting to talk about their writing projects, and there are sometimes new people coming in who want to pick the brains of the more experienced.'

In the North Island we have the Tauranga group, led by Jan Pendergrast, West Auckland led by various members, and Janice Gillgren heads up the Northland group.

Thanks to Debbie for her care of our library over the past year. Julia Martin has now taken on this task. Thank you Julia.

Thanks must especially go to Debbie for all the hours she puts into the magazine. You do an excellent job Debbie. It looks great!

Thanks must also go to our proof readers Ruth Linton and Janet Pointon. Thank you to Dave Palmer for posting those magazines which are sent out by hard copy.

Our 2014 Spring Workshop and AGM were held at Rossgrove Chapel on the 6th September 2014, when Duncan Pardon, Jan Pendergrast and Debbie McDermott spoke. Our Autumn Workshop was held on 15th March. At that time Keitha Smith and Tom O'Neil were our speakers. It has been disappointing to see the decline in attendance at these workshops.

A number of members enjoyed our retreat which was held at Narrows Park, Waikato. We had a lovely relaxing weekend with great food, fellowship, fun and teaching.

I would like to mention the passing of two of our members. Erling Jensen was a very longstanding member and often contributed at workshops in the past. David Blaiklock was also a member for some years. To others who have suffered bereavement in the past year we offer you our sympathy.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the committee over the past year. Members are Jan Pendergrast, Debbie McDermott, Eion Field, Janette Busch, Julia Martin, Justin St Vincent, Barbara McNaughton, Beth Walker and Fred Swallow. Thank you so much Jan for the work that you do as Vice-President and Treasurer. We appreciate it.

Barbara has handed in her resignation from the committee. Thank you for the time you have given to the committee. I would also like to mention that Rod Hickman has agreed to stand for the Committee. Thank you Rod.

Congratulations to those who have been published in 2015. Well done. May you each continue to write so that others may come to know the wonderful God we serve.

Janet Fleming

Change

By Beth Walker

We all experience change. Some people embrace it and thrive on it, some like it, others don't mind change and some do whatever they can to dodge it. Often people become less adventurous as they grow older.

Of course it partly depends on what kind of change. Many people chase what they want to happen if they win Lotto.

Change is inevitable, even if we avoid some of it.

God has taken me through so many changes I've almost lost count. Decades ago I had to move house six times in one year, (or was it five?) and had five different jobs (or was it six? If I think hard enough I can remember). As if that wasn't enough, I also changed church and lost almost all my things in a fire. By spring none of my circumstances, and few of my clothes, were the same as in January.

When I became a Christian, all I really knew apart from Bible stories was that God has a plan for our lives. At first I thought this was only about 'big important things', such as where we live and work and who we marry. Gradually I learned that God's plan covers everything, and 'little things' can be important too.

Changes are part of God's plan, I soon found. Also he sometimes does things I don't like, and doesn't bring about changes I would like. Often I don't take kindly to this. (I'm not unique, am I?)

Another basic truth I discovered—God wants us to follow his plan whether we like and understand it or not. Being a

Christian isn't all about being happy, as some believe. It's better to be in his plan unwillingly than not to be in it.

God isn't thrown by our reactions or lack of them. As we obey he'll help us deal with our disappointment, confusion, anger, rebellion, resentment or whatever. And sooner or later that will usually be easier than the results of not following him.

Eventually I realised that when my life is laid down there's a measure of peace, even when I don't like what God wants me to do. However it's really hard when I'm kicking and screaming. This isn't just because I dislike the next step. When my will isn't surrendered, or not fully (sometimes it's been anything but), God can't give me peace.

Although I usually live in Auckland, recently I had two-and-a-half years back in Christchurch. "When might you return to Auckland?" a friend asked after CW's 30th anniversary in March 2013. "Mm... hopefully in April." However I was still down south three Aprils later! It was *seriously* just as well I didn't know in advance.

Last autumn I left Christchurch, expecting to stay about a week with friends on their small farm in North Canterbury's high country. This turned out so well I didn't 'turn out' for ten weeks. Apart from some cold weather it was an easy adjustment, a happy time.

Returning to Auckland wasn't like that! Although the drive from Canterbury to Auckland was problem free, I couldn't manage an Auckland carpark building's changed entry/exit system—several times. Road works on the NW motorway keep me on my driving toes, partly as Waterview is getting its own Spaghetti

Junction. Some neighbours have moved, and most of my Auckland family have had major changes. This list is just for starters.

How do we cope with change? Friends, family, and familiar things and places may help to fill gaps and provide comfort, strength and stability. However they could be miles away, or seem like it.

The best way to deal with change is by digging deeper into God. He's always available and knows all about what's been left behind. 1 Peter 5:10 (NKJ) says, 'May the God of all grace... after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.' That sounds good.

We need to take our doubts and fears to God (e.g. about the future) and grow in trusting him. Part of that means taking our hands off situations and their outcomes, and letting him have his way. Remember that trust doesn't come naturally. It's not automatic—we learn it bit by bit, in different areas.

It also helps to remember Jesus doesn't change (Hebrews 13:8), and is always with us. Also he is far greater than anything that can happen to us. 'We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28, NKJ).

Two personal prophecies I received early this year have helped greatly. Given by people who haven't met, they overlap remarkably. Both emphasise God beginning new things in my life this year, and I often remind myself of them and feel uplifted.

Change is inevitable, but our reactions to it don't have to be.

Our sincere CONDOLENCES to

Beth Walker

whose mum, Dorothy, recently passed
away in Christchurch

&

Eion Field

whose sister, Mary, passed away
suddenly while on holiday in China

May the knowledge that your loved ones are in
heaven with their Lord and Saviour be your
comfort at this sad time

I Love You

By Bonnie Smithies

*I suffered, I bled, I gave up my life
Because of my great love for you
And with my dying breath I gasped out
"My child, I love you so."*

*Do I not thirst in my soul to know you?
Do I not long for your heart?
Have I not wished for eternity long
My great love for you to impart?*

*I've held your name inside my thoughts
Since before the beginning of time
Have I not longed to envelop your soul
To hug you, and make your name mine?*

*My business is patching up
shattered hearts
And giving you life to the full
I love to clear up sinner's debts
Oh, will you not answer my call?*

*My dear, dear child, this choice is yours
And this new life is utterly free
I replenish, restore, rescue and redeem
How I'd love you to come to me.*

Getting Your Tenses Right

By Ruth Linton

Do you feel tense when you think of tenses in writing? It would not be surprising if you did!

Most of us know there are three main tenses: past, present and future. That sounds simple enough but what about the perfect tense, the progressive or continuous tense, and simple tenses and compound tenses? And there are more. However, as writers, the issue is not to identify the tense you use but to be consistent with it throughout your writing. Fortunately we all speak fluently which makes writing easier. Spare a little sympathy for the learner of English as a second language!

Verbs are the words in a sentence that express the action being carried out or the condition or state your character is in. e.g. *The boy is running* (action), *The boy is here* (position) or *The girl is happy* (condition). Notice in all these examples two words make up the verb. This is not always so but is very common. Each of the two words is called a **participle**. (There are many different kinds of verbs and, if you wish to be technical, you should study a book on grammar but, for the purposes of this article, we will keep it simple and practical.)

Verbs are what set the tense in our writing. A large proportion of writing is in the **past tense**—it seems to flow naturally for most writers. Many verbs in the past tense end with the suffix **-ed** but this is not always so. The full verb can often be formed by adding participles such as *was*, *were*, and *went* to the action: *was running*, *went away* or *were happy*. Both these participles are

needed to make the full verb.

In the **present tense** the action or the state is happening right now. It is the tense commonly used by rugby commentators at a test match. Verbs and participles ending with **-ing** or **-s** are common with *is* and *are* frequently needed to make a complete verb: *He is here*, *They are walking* or *Here she comes*.

Writing in the **future tense** is less common. Again the verb is likely to end with **-ing** or **-s** but it will be accompanied by the 'verb to be': *He will run in the marathon* or *He will be running in the marathon*; *She will be happy* or *She is going to be happy*.

Usually a sentence will have only one tense although there may be two verbs—one carried out by the subject of the sentence and one carried out by the object of the sentence. e.g. *The boy ran (subject and action) quickly as the ball bounced (object and action) across the road*.

Sometimes the story or article is written in the past tense but may include a sentence about what a character will be doing in the future of the story, as the plot unfolds. e.g. *The policeman at the crime scene was baffled. "We will have to work quickly tomorrow if we are going to catch the thief," he said*.

Look at the next set of sentences. The first is clear and consistent. The second is also correct but has a subtle difference in meaning. The third example, however, is not correct:

The man shouted loudly as the boy ran away. (Simple past tense)

The man shouted loudly as the boy was running away. (Simple past tense and past continuous)

The man shouted loudly as the boy is running away. (Simple past tense and present continuous!)

Finally most verbs ending with –ed are in the **perfect tense** as the verb implies the action has been completed, whereas verbs ending with –ing are often in the **continuous** or **progressive tense** meaning the action is ongoing as the story is being written. **Have** and **has** are common participles indicating the perfect tense and **is, are** and **will be** often indicate the continuous tense. See the examples below:

Past perfect: *We had finished our work.*

Present perfect: *We have finished our work.*

Future perfect: *We will have finished our work.*

Past continuous: *The boy was finishing his work.*

Present continuous: *We are finishing our work.*

Future continuous: *We will be finishing our work tomorrow.*

This month’s puzzle page is based on this article. As there may be several answers other than the ones given, please feel free to email me if you want your answers checked at: ruthlinton2015@gmail.com.

Bibliography

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Pages 14-19, 72-105 HarperCollins 2000

Perfect Grammar Pages 14-22
Penguin Books 2005

THIS MONTH’S ACTIVITY:

It was a hot day and John wanted an ice cream. He decided he would walk to the dairy and buy one for himself. Since it was his job to walk the family dog he decided to take the dog with him. He knew the little Jack Russell loved ice cream so he planned to buy a small one for him too. John grabbed his wallet, clipped the lead onto the dog’s collar and was soon walking along the road.

1. *Rewrite this story as if it is happening now (the present tense).*
2. *Now rewrite it in the future tense.*
3. *Make a list of the verbs as they occur in the story above (the past tense)*

ANSWERS on Page 15

REMINDER Annual Subscriptions

were due on 1st August 2015

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Does the Written Word Matter to God?

By Julia Martin

We can't be sure. What we do know for certain is that God cares about the written word, otherwise we wouldn't have the Bible—His one and only published work.

The Bible is the most widely read and the most published, translated and best-selling book of all time.

It's God's amazing gift to us—given to reveal Himself, to explain His plan for human history from the very beginning to the end of time, and to provide a handbook for our daily living.

Every story and teaching throughout this unique book fits an overriding theme—the redeeming love of God for lost humanity.

God not only provided His revealed truth in written form, He also chose to protect it down through the ages from evil individuals and regimes that sought to destroy it.

While God inspired the 66 books making up the Bible, He used more than 40 different writers from diverse times and backgrounds to pen the Scriptures. The writers weren't puppets, but were ordinary people who were guided by the Holy Spirit to convey God's message, often in their own style and genre. Sometimes God dictated the exact words He wanted recorded.

When Moses was given the stone tablets bearing the Ten Commandments, the

writing was inscribed on them by the very finger of God. (Exodus 31:18)

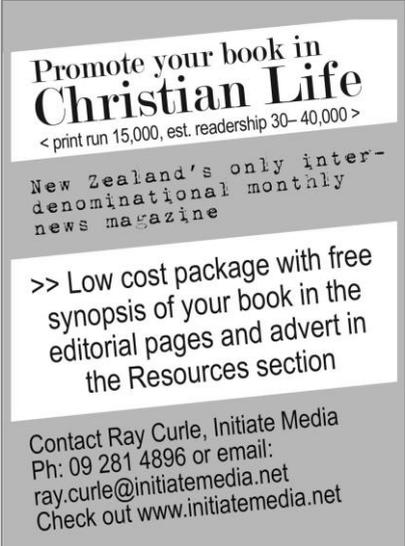
In the New Testament we read about the book of life where God records the names of all those who trust in Christ and will dwell with Him one day.

If we believe the Bible to be the word of God—the source of all truth—then we can accept it as inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative and eternal.

God cares about His written word and we should be encouraged to use our skills as Christian writers to convey His life changing message to a lost and hopeless world.

The Apostle Paul wrote:

'For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.' Romans 15:4



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Answers to Activity Page:

Answers will vary. If you are unsure of your solution please email it to Ruth Linton at ruthlinton2015@gmail.com.

1) Present Tense:

It is a hot day and John wants an ice cream. He decides to walk to the dairy to buy one for himself. It is his job to walk the family dog so he is taking it with him. He knows the little Jack Russell likes ice cream so he is planning to buy a small one for him too. John grabs his wallet, clips the lead onto the dog's collar and starts walking down the road.

2) Future Tense:

It will be a hot day and John will want an ice cream. He will need to walk to the dairy to buy himself one. It is his job to walk the family dog so he will take him along. He knows the little Jack Russell likes ice cream so he will buy a small one for him too. John will get his wallet, clip the lead onto the dog's collar and start walking down the road.

3) VERBS in the first story are:

Sentence 1: was; wanted

Sentence 2: would walk; buy

Sentence 3: was; to walk; decided; to take

Sentence 4: knew; loved; planned to buy

Sentence 5: grabbed; clipped; was (soon) walking

Warm Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Graham Cruickshank
of Maunu, Northland

Jill Keeling
of Redwood, Christchurch

Ray Spence
of Balaclava, Dunedin

Felicity Visser
of Highland Park, Auckland

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John Stott, the Writer Part 1



Over 50 books penned by John Stott, an ornithologist and curate of All Souls Church, London, were translated into over 60 languages. His books include subjects such as social justice and medical ethics. He regarded the Bible as his supreme authority and related its teachings in all areas of knowledge and experience.

His *Basic Christianity* sold one million copies. Royalties from his books were used to found the Langham Book World of low cost libraries for pastors and the production and distribution of theological books in developing countries. From 1959 to 1991 he served as a Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth.

In Sunday School at All Souls, he sat in the balcony dropping paper pellets on the heads of the congregation seated below and teased girls. Hearing a talk as a teenager on Revelation 3:20 ‘Behold I stand at the door and knock’, he received full assurance in Christ and worked to bring his thinking under the scrutiny of the Bible.

He attended Colleges like Trinity, Cambridge and founded and supported several evangelical movements.

Bibliography: Wikipedia. *The Birds our Teachers*, Google

Library Corner

Book Review

By Debbie McDermott



Take a walk on the WILD SIDE

By Janet Balcombe

Childhood rejection and inconsolable grief over the death of her brother are the catalysts that drive Janet Balcombe into making choices that eventually cause her to hit rock bottom. Alcohol and 'P' 'addictions, together with co-dependency issues and a constant feeling of worthlessness have left her so debilitated that she does not even have the strength to make her baby one more bottle of formula! Desperate for help, she asks the one question that will change her life forever:

“God, if you’re real, show yourself to me.”

While there have only been hints of God’s saving grace up to this point, he now begins revealing himself to Janet more and more. And as he does, so *Take a Walk on the Wild Side* becomes one of the most wonderful stories of redemption I have ever read.

Through his power and the prayers and love of his people, God releases, heals and delivers Janet from her despair into a life with a future and a hope. A life of victory, joy and service.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side is a well written, open and honest book that gives great insight into the needs of those who are locked into a living hell of addiction, isolation, despair and depravity. It also reveals the limitless depth of God’s compassion and love for those who have lost hope. Read the book. You will come away challenged.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side is directly available from the publisher @ \$24.95ea +Postage
www.wildside.com.mx

Recent Library Additions

Small Beginnings

By Dennis McLeod
—a member of NZCW—



Thank you for donating your book,
Dennis

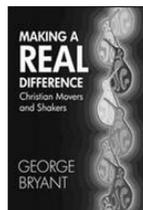
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Competition Results

Under 20s

Judge:
Vicki Nogaj

Requirement: Write a poem describing a favourite vacation spot. It could be real or imaginary. The poem must be three stanzas long with a minimum of four lines per stanza. It doesn't have to rhyme.

First Place



Benjamin Smithies
of Christchurch
(12 years old)

Patons Rock Bay

Tangled vines spanning
A broad distance
From dark hard earth
To an endless canopy of green

Pierced by a
Ribbon of singing blue
Like an oiled sapphire
Slipping endlessly through the bush

Smashing out into a
Sighing uneasy sea
Sand like gold free
From feet and footprints

Judge's Comments

I gave this first place because of the simple yet powerful, descriptive imagery which seemed to lead the reader on a chronological visual journey. The image of 'singing blue' didn't make sense to me and detracted from the poem a little.

The lack of punctuation also helped the poem to flow almost rhythmically to its completion. The last line was very powerful and a great concluding message. Well done!

Second Place



Danella Smithies
of Christchurch
(16 years old)

Ocean Lookout

The sea extends and meets the sky
In a frail, fragile line.
The deep azure contrasts the soft golden sand,
Endless beauty to enjoy.

I love to gaze upon the scene,
All alone with nature.
My favourite place in all the world
Watching the whispering waves.

I feel closer to my Father
This is His creation.
He who sets the ocean's course is able
To care for His little child.

Judge's Comments

This was another descriptive feast for the eyes of the imagination. I liked the description of the horizon without having to mention it directly. It starts off impersonal then moves deeper from intimacy with nature to reveal a personal relationship with the Creator and Father.

The punctuation was slightly inconsistent and could have been left out but didn't detract from the overall flow. Nice work.

Third Place



**Bonnie
Smithies**
of Christchurch
(16 years old)

Takaka, Golden Bay

My favourite place in which to take
A relaxing holiday
Is Takaka town in the top of the South
The beautiful Golden Bay
We stay in a cottage atop a high hill
Overlooking the blue-green sea
The birds, they sing, and so does my heart
It's a special place to me.

There's native bush through which
there runs
A track going down to the beach
And there's a great big swing on the top of
the hill
But you've got to be tall to reach.
You climb right up to the platform stand
Holding the swing, and don't look down!
Then you close your eyes and jump
– and go
Sailing dizzily round and round.

If the day is hot you can go for a swim
In the waves of the sparkling ocean
Dive under the breakers, getting sand in
your hair
And be swept around by the motion.
Then arise from the sea at the end of
your dip
And run as fast as you can up the hill
I've been to many places for a holiday
But Takaka's my favourite still.

Judge's Comments

I enjoyed the personal touch in this poem as the inclusion of real memories makes it

enjoyable. The rhythm was a little messy at times and made it hard to read as the expectation was set in the first stanza.

I wasn't sure how the last line aided in ending the poem as it seems to start a new topic and doesn't flow logically from the line before. Overall a great attempt and fun read.

Fourth Place



**Sophie
Smithies**
of Christchurch
(15 years old)

Takaka, Golden Bay

Handsome sandcastles stand tall,
Pearly shells scatter the coast,
Excited children race around the beach,
A dream come true.

Cotton wool clouds float gracefully above,
A peaceful, sapphire sky hangs motionless,
The friendly, warm sun streams down,
A dream come true.

Sparkling, turquoise ripples,
Eager waves roll onto golden sand,
Cheerful seagulls soar overhead,
A dream come true.

Judge's Comments

Sophie wrote a lovely descriptive poem about the beach but it lacked the sense of flowing along a set idea. It seemed like a list of descriptive sentences strung together and joined by the one line 'A dream come true'.

I could see the idea it was trying to achieve but it didn't quite get there.

Level One

Judge:
Debbie McDermott

Requirement: BOOK REVIEW—Read a book that has been published in the last two years. Then write a brief review on it. Include author and publisher details as well as your name, the reviewer. 250 words

General Comments

Doing a book review demands a greater commitment than is generally required for other assignments, because it involves reading the book beforehand, and then deciding on what aspects to comment on in the review. The three people who put in that extra amount of time to enter this competition made an excellent effort. Each presented me with an interesting and informative review that made me want to read further—which, of course, was the objective.

When writing a review, do be aware that your reader may be totally unfamiliar with some of the information you are trying to convey to him/her. This is particularly true of an historical account that took place a very long time ago. It is therefore essential to include extra details when necessary, to ensure your review is as clearly presented to the reader as possible. Examples of how this can be done are included in my comments on Yvonne Mossom's review of Ken Follett's novel, 'Edge of Eternity'.

Once again, well done to those who gave this competition a go. You did very well and I look forward to receiving more entries from you.



First Place



**Eion
Field**
of Hamilton

GOD KNOWS WHERE THEY COME FROM! published by The Kynaston Charitable Trust / Craigs Design & Print Ltd, Invercargill reviewed by Eion Field

This rather unique book has four authors, all clergymen who were born or spent their formative years in the West Coast town of Hokitika. Each minister writes a detailed and intriguing account of life as a “coaster” in small town New Zealand, post-World War Two. Their individual paths, after leaving home for secular careers, all variously lead to becoming ordained into Christian service.

There's a concise history of Hokitika (often mis-spelled 'Hokatika'), which by 1865, had become one of NZ's largest towns due to the West Coast gold rush. Churches were soon established in the bustling river port as miners from overseas arrived by the hundreds. Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist congregations started up. Ecumenical co-operation was mostly good. All churches had times of success, setbacks and tragedies over the decades. The book details the self-sacrifice of many parishioners.

The four men give autobiographies of their ministries. Richard Waugh became a national leader of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. He's also an aviation buff. Allan Davidson, a Presbyterian minister, has devoted his life and academic gifts to

teaching church history in both New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. Father Steve Lowe, born and raised in Hokitika, knew in his early adulthood that the priesthood was for him, having been influenced by (among others) the Sisters of Mercy. Anglican vicar Ted Schroder decided at fifteen to follow Jesus; he trained for ministry soon after high-school. Overseas studies led to leadership roles in the USA.

They all mention background issues, current with their ministries: 1981 Springbok tour, Geering heresy trial, Charismatic renewal, Gay Pride ... The book is very readable, interspersed with many topical photographs. It deserves high commendation.

Judge's Comments

Apart from not including the word count and the names of the four authors at the top of his entry, Eion met the requirements of this competition exceptionally well by providing just enough information in his review to whet the reader's appetite for more. His style of writing is also ideal for this assignment because it is conversational and engages the reader from the start. Small asides such as '...Hokitika (often misspelled 'Hokatika')' give it a personal touch as well as information many New Zealanders may not know.

There is a good cohesion to the whole review, with each paragraph following on nicely from the previous one. I particularly enjoyed the third paragraph, which effectively summarises the ministries of the four men in only a few words.

With regards to sentence 1 in paragraph 4, I suggest swapping around some of the information after the colon, as a reader who is unaware of the timeframe for these issues may think they all happened in 1981.

The last sentence ends the review nicely, but it should be a new paragraph if the commendation of the book is to stand out.

Grammar and punctuation are good, with only a few changes needing to be made:

- *Para 1—sentence 1: Delete 'rather'. 'Unique' is an absolute, which means the book is either unique or it isn't.*
- *Para 1—sentence 2: 'coaster' should have single quote marks. Only use double apostrophes for direct speech.*
- *Para 1—sentence 3 is stilted. I recommend rewriting it as 'After leaving home to take up secular careers, their individual paths all variously led to being ordained...'*
- *Para 2—sentence 1: Delete the comma after 1865.*
- *Para 2—'misspelled' and 'cooperation' do not need hyphens.*
- *Para 3—sentence 1: Change 'men' to authors in order to tie this paragraph back to paragraph one.*
- *Para 3—sentence 4: delete the word 'both' so that the sentence simply reads 'in New Zealand and Papua...'*
- *Para 3—second last sentence: no hyphen is needed in 'high school'.*
- *Para 4—sentence 1: delete the space before the three ellipsis points.*

Well done, Eion. I look forward to receiving your next entry.

Second Place



Yvonne Mossom
of Whangarei.

Book Review: The Edge of Eternity: The last volume in 'The Century Trilogy.'

Author: Ken Follett

Publisher: Macmillan. Date of publication: September 2014.

Reviewed by Yvonne Mossom.

Rating: 9 out of 10

The five families in this historical saga, having lived through two world wars, are now experiencing the world shattering events of the sixties and seventies of the last century. The building of the Berlin wall, the Civil rights movement in the Southern states and the launching of the Russian, Yuri Gargarin into space all have international effects. Russian missiles in Cuba cause a flutter on Capitol Hill. Three assassinations complicate matters further.

The author has researched exhaustively. He even mentions one of the affairs that Kennedy indulged in when the current situation became too stressful. It was just as diverting to be part of the discussions in the Kremlin during the Cuban crisis and the subsequent emergence of a new political party led by Gorbachov. On a lighter note, rock bands were becoming very significant. The Rolling stones, the Beatles and the Woodstock Music Festival feature prominently in these times. An epilogue by Barak Obama about racial discrimination is even more poignant in view of the current events Stateside.

The pace is fast, the plot intricate but easily followed. The family members have become so familiar that their reactions are predictable. The historicity is undeniably a useful reference. Not bed-time reading because the book is large and the action is not conducive to sleep, however, it is a source of continual enjoyment.

Judge's Comments

Yvonne successfully met all the key requirements of this competition. It is not easy to review a saga in so few words, because there is usually more than one central plot woven through the story, along with numerous subplots and characters. Yet she reviewed 'Edge of Eternity' very well by only summarising those aspects of the book that will spark interest and the desire to read and/or research the story for oneself.

The flow of the piece is good, but there is some need to clarify information for those readers who may be unfamiliar with the politics of the 1960s and '70s. Some of the information also needs to be rearranged so that each paragraph and sentence follows on nicely from the previous one. My suggestions in this regard are:

- *Para 1—the first sentence is quite stilted. The phrase '...of the last century' also creates a conflict in tenses, as the families in the story are living in the 1900s **now**. To improve the flow and meaning of the sentence, I suggest rewriting it as: 'The five families in this historical saga have lived through two world wars and are now experiencing the world shattering events of the 1960s and '70s.'*
- *Para 2—sentence 2: Put 'John' before 'Kennedy' to indicate which Kennedy is meant.*
- *Para 2—sentence 3. Rewriting the first few words as: 'The American President found it just as diverting...' will make it clear who the person being referred to is as well as tie this sentence back to the previous one. It would also be good to put 'Russian' before 'political party', as those born after the 1960s / 70s era may be unfamiliar with the history of the day.*
- *Para 2—last sentence: Barak Obama's epilogue would be better placed at the*

end of Para 1, which refers to the Civil Rights Movement.

Grammar and punctuation are very good, but Gorbachev and Yuri Gagarin are spelled incorrectly. Other corrections are:

- *Para 1—sentence 2: each word in ‘Berlin Wall’ and ‘Civil Rights Movement’ should begin with a capital letter.*
- *Para 2—sentence 2: delete ‘that’.*
- *Para 3—sentence 2: delete ‘have’ in order to make the tense of the sentence consistent with the rest of the paragraph.*
- *Para 3—sentence 4: ‘bedtime’ is no longer hyphenated.*

*In conclusion, I need to point out that Yvonne incorrectly entitled the book she reviewed as ‘**The** Edge of Eternity’ instead of ‘Edge of Eternity’. While it may be grammatically correct to include ‘The’ in the title, it is not the reviewer’s prerogative to do so, especially as there may be copyright issues to consider.*

Apart from the above, this is a highly commendable review. Well done, Yvonne, and do keep writing.

Third Place



**Karen
Belk**

of Takapuna, Auckland

Killing Christians.

Living the Faith Where It’s Not Safe to Believe.

Tom Doyle.

W Publishing Group. Nashville, Tennessee. 2015.

For Christians whom are free to practise their faith, it can be quite challenging to understand and comprehend what other Christians endure in countries where the Gospel of Christ is not welcomed.

In *Killing Christians*, author Tom Doyle gives some Christians in these hostile countries a voice to their own testimony, of what happens to them when they convert from Islam to Christianity.

Jesus is calling out Muslims to follow Him despite the earthly consequences they will experience. How the love of Christ has given them hope and peace while often handing them a death sentence from the community they live in. For safety reasons names have been changed but the stories remain true.

Tom Doyle is a man that has a passion for the people of the Middle East. In his book he gives insight into the everyday struggles that converts face in their faith. He asks the reader to consider praying for all Christians whom live in countries where persecution and oppression is normal. People seeking further information and regular updates on prayer requests can check out the website address provided.

This book will challenge the reader’s faith. When the book is closed and put on a book shelf hopefully the Christians in the Middle East will not be shelved and forgotten.

Reviewed by Karen Belk.

Judge’s Comments

While Karen fulfilled the key requirements of this competition, I felt the content of her review was a bit too brief (only 214 words). This may be because she thought the title and

credits had to be included in the 250 words allowed. However this is not the case, unless stipulated by NZCW in the competition requirements. Do remember that if you are unsure about what the competition requirements are, you are welcome to seek clarification at any time.

Although Karen's review was challenging and inspiring, there was a lack of connectivity between a couple of paragraphs, and sentence 2 in para 3 is incomplete. A slight rearranging and rewriting of the review will improve the flow significantly: e.g.

- Move sentence 1 in para 4 to the beginning of para 2, and rewrite it as 'Author Tom Doyle is a man...' Then change what is now the second sentence in paragraph 2 to read: *In Killing Christians, he gives...*
- Now combine paragraphs 2 and 3
- Go to paragraph 4 and move 'In his book he gives insight into the everyday struggles that converts face...' to para 2, after the sentence '...convert from Islam to Christianity.'

Grammar and punctuation are generally good. Corrections needing to be made are:

- Paras 1 and 4—'whom' is only used in the object position in a sentence, while 'who' is used in the subject position. As the word 'Christians' in both paragraphs is the subject, change 'whom' to 'who' in each instance.
- Para 1—sentence 1: 'understand' and 'comprehend' mean the same. I suggest deleting 'and comprehend'.
- Para 2—sentence 1: 'some Christians' sounds exclusive. Rather change it to 'oppressed Christians', then rewrite the last part of the sentence as: '...their own testimony by telling what happens to them when...'
- Para 3 does not read well, because there is a conflict in tenses. I suggest changing

it as follows: 'Yet Jesus calls these Muslims to follow Him despite the earthly consequences they will experience. It is the love of Christ that gives them hope and peace in a community that will probably hand them the death sentence.'

- Para 4—sentence 3: delete 'provided' as you have not included the website address in your review.
- Final Para—sentence 1: It would be better to begin this sentence with the book's title to avoid using the word 'book' twice in quick succession.

Apart from the above, this is a very good effort, Karen. I look forward to receiving more entries from you.

Level Two

Judge: Janice Gillgren

Requirement: PASS IT ON: ADVICE FROM YESTERYEAR— Give clear instructions on how to do a useful skill that used to be common, but seems to be little known by the younger generation today. If you prefer, or if you include yourself in the younger generation, write about a current skill as if for the next generation. 300-350 words.

General Comments

There isn't much room to include photographs or drawings in the NZCW, which would have enhanced the value of these DIY-type articles, so I didn't allow for them. However, if you were to submit such an article to an editor, I suggest you include pictures if you can.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling were all reasonably good.

Each entry had some personal comments that added to the readability of the article, though some were overdone.

The place getters' entries were very close, and all were about darning. (Take note, younger readers!) John's entry edged into 1st place as it required fewer grammatical corrections. Well done, John.

Although arranging such work in bullet or numbered points can work very well, it doesn't always. It depends on how long each point is, or how well and sensibly they are arranged. A 'recipe' format would probably work best for these articles, using a separate small list near the start for items required for the job, with the instructional points in a separate list below, and numbered or bulleted if that would make them clearer.

First Place



**John
Lindsay**
of Christchurch

Darn It

The ability to mend a hole in socks, jerseys, and other garments was an essential skill when I was a child.

I am no DIY junkie, but I can darn socks. The tools and material are simple: a needle, thread and 'mushroom'. The mushroom is a wooden replica of the field variety, with a rounded top and stalk. If you don't have one, a closed fist does as well.

Begin by placing the top of the mushroom inside the sock and gripping the sock against the stalk with the hole stretched across the head of the mushroom. If you are using your fist, a right handed person would put their left hand inside the sock, making a fist that stretches the hole over the gap between the thumb and first finger.

Start the repair by inserting the threaded needle in an undamaged area about 5mm outside the hole and run a thread from one side of the repair area to the other (tracking over and under the existing knitted stitches to give an edge to your work).

Continue moving backwards and forwards across your work area with threads about as close as the rows of knitting in the garment until you are about 5mm into solid material beyond the hole, opposite where you started.

You should now have a set of parallel threads, creating what would be the warp in a woven garment. In the next stage you will complete the mending by forming the weft.

Carry on from where you ended the first stage of the repair, about 5mm outside the edge of the hole, but this time working at right angles to your previous threads.

Work backwards and forwards across the hole, over and under the earlier threads as if putting the weft in a piece of weaving.

Put the final thread about 5mm beyond the edge of the hole.

While the repaired section should be firm, do not pull your thread too tight or you will create an uncomfortable ridge in the garment.

Judge's Comments

Congratulations John. I've awarded you 1st place. Well done. Your points are generally clear. My comments are mostly on how to further improve clarity.

A DIY article such as this benefits from a format that makes it easy for readers to immediately pick up and follow instructions, and I think yours could have been improved

in a recipe format (see my general comments above). Your paragraphs are fine as they are, or could be numbered.

You don't really need the 1st sentence in your 2nd paragraph.

In your third paragraph, 'right handed' should be hyphenated.

In your 4th paragraph, the latter part of the sentence doesn't need to be in brackets. A comma would be enough to divide the two parts of the sentence.

The word 'tracking' would be better replaced with a more common sewing term. Likewise, the word 'solid' in the next paragraph could be confusing. 'Stable' or 'unbroken' may better describe garment material, which most people don't think of as having solid substance. The words 'warp' and 'weft' are, I think, becoming as unknown as the skill of darning, so an explanation of these weaving terms may be helpful too.

The sentence 'Put the final thread...' needs more detail. e.g. 'then weave your thread ends neatly into the repair work or surrounding fabric before snipping them off.'

This article would also benefit from a conclusion that ties into the introduction. I suggest something like: 'You will appreciate this useful old skill when you get much more wear out of your favourite socks!'

Second Place



**Jean
Shewan**
of Christchurch

Darning

In these days of cheap and easily obtained clothing, most people don't bother to

mend tears or darn holes in garments.

In past generations darning and mending was a large part of a housewife's work. I learned how to darn in the Brownies and recently used this skill to repair a small hole in my merino cardigan. Here is how it is done:

- 1) Select a matching cotton, thread or fine wool in a matching shade to the garment.
- 2) Choose an appropriate sized sewing needle both in thickness and the size of the eye.
- 3) Thread it with a 50cm length of cotton or wool.
- 4) Turn garment inside out and make a double stitch away from the hole.
- 5) Start to weave the needle tip up and down in a straight line in the fabric and across the hole into the opposite side.
- 6) Do this back and forward across the hole in parallel lines, being careful to bring the needle under the raw edge each time.
- 7) When hole is completely covered in one direction, turn through 90 degrees weaving across the threads you have just made.
- 8) When the hole is completely covered in both directions finish off with a double stitch, again away from the hole and snip thread.
- 9) Turn garment in the right way and check that all raw edges are covered.

Hints:

- a) if available use a darning mushroom,
- b) do not pull the thread tight at any time or the darn will be lumpy. (what

my grandmother would have called ‘cobbled together’)

This may take a bit of practice, but can be used in all sorts of situations eg my daughter brought her eighteen month old daughter new tights which got a hole in them on first wear. My granddaughter picked at the very small hole each time she wore the tights, gradually enlarging it. I darned it and now she has nothing to pick at! Spoilsport Grandma!

Judge’s Comments

Well done, Jean. I have awarded you second place. Arranging your information in numbered points suited your piece well. You have obviously sought to make your points as clear as possible, and many of my suggestions for improvement are intended to further ‘fine tune’ your clarity.

Your comments at the beginning and end add to the article’s ‘personality’, though there tends to be a fine line between adding interest, and saying more than needed. e.g. you don’t really need your second sentence, and, as the ‘Brownies’ is not so well known today, you could leave that part of the sentence out too.

‘Here is how it is done.’ I suggest you put this in its own paragraph, and also enlarge it to: ‘Here is how to mend a hole in a garment.’ This will prevent readers from thinking you mean only how to repair a cardigan.

In your 1st point, you don’t need the word ‘matching’ twice.

Points 5 and 6 say both ‘up and down’ and ‘back and forward’, which could confuse a learner, so I suggest deleting one of them.

In the 7th point: ‘turn through’ could be improved to: ‘turn your garment 90 degrees, and start weaving across the threads you have just made, going back and forth across

the hole.’ (I also suggest you include another point about how to actually weave these stitches). And, to be consistent at the start of the sentence: ‘When the hole...’

Some grammatical points next:

If you are using a parenthetical phrase, be sure to include the second comma (or em dash, if you are using that instead of a comma). In point 8: ‘...double stitch, again away from the hole, and...’

In hint a), use a comma after ‘if available’, so ‘use’ is clearly seen as an active verb.

In hint b): If you are writing words in brackets, put the full stop after the brackets, not before. You don’t really need this phrase put into brackets though, as it could be preceded simply with a comma. Whether or not you bracket this phrase, start it with ‘which is...’.

Beware of ‘cobbling together’ two long and unconnected phrases with an ‘eg’. In your last paragraph, start a second sentence with ‘For example, my daughter...’

Finally, don’t overdo exclamation points. One would be enough at the end of your article.

Third Place



Judith Powell
of Canterbury

Save Your Socks

You love the possum and wool socks Grandma gave you for your birthday. Next time they wear out on the heels borrow a darning mushroom and darn the holes. A darning mushroom is a wood or plastic dome with a handle. These, and

darning wool and needles, are available from craft or sewing shops.

Take a darning needle and, unless you want your patch to be obvious, darning wool to match your socks. Cut a single thread about fifty centimetres long. Fold the wool over the thin end of the needle. Pinch the fold tight between your index finger and thumb, and slide it off the needle. Still squeezing push the folded wool through the hole in the needle. Do not knot the end of the thread.

Pull the sock over the rounded mushroom, keeping the hole at the top. Hold it firmly round the stalk, without pulling on the sock. Use your most adept hand to sew in and out in a circle around the hole in the sock. This will stop it stretching. Next start with a few stitches at one side, then carry the thread across the hole, and sew a few stitches at the other end. Make your stitches as near to the size of the stitches in the socks as you can. Continue back and forth until the hole is covered.

Half turn the mushroom in your hand and sew with the needle at right angles to the previous rows. As you go back and forth weave the thread under and over the previous threads, continuing to sew a few stitches on each side of the hole. In each row put the needle under and over the threads in the opposite way to those in the row before. Fill the hole with your weaving and sew a few stitches in and out in the sock to end off. Snip the wool close to the sock.

Your sock will last longer and your grandmother will be thrilled to hear you have learned to darn.



Judge's Comments

Hi Judith. I've awarded you third place for this entry. Your conclusion is upbeat and a great ending to the article, and I can see how you've linked it to the introduction, which is great. The title is also catchy.

There are some problems with the first paragraph. The first few sentences should be a separate introductory paragraph. I like the way you've started with a friendly statement to draw in a reader, although your next sentence could imply the same pair of socks keep on getting holes.

Here's a possible alternative:

Do those lovely wool and possum socks Grandma gives you each birthday wear out on the heels? Don't throw them out! Darning holes isn't too difficult.'

The 2nd two sentences belong in a paragraph on their own.

I've rewritten the 4th sentence: 'Here's how to save those socks. Craft shops sell darning mushrooms, and special darning needles, or you may be able to borrow them. (A darning mushroom is...) You'll also need a small ball of yarn to sew with.'

Although the three central paragraphs are relatively long and uniform in length, (which is usually unadvisable) they are each well written.

In the 2nd para: 'Still squeezing, push...' The comma ensures the word 'push' is the active verb of the sentence. Similarly, in the 4th para: 'As you go back and forth, weave...' The commas separate the active verbs from the verb phrases at the start of the sentences.

At the end of the 2nd para is the instruction to leave the end of the thread

unknotted, but I cannot see any explanation of what to do with it.

In the end of the 3rd para, it may make better sense to explain that the stitches should be parallel to each other.

Level Three

Judge:
Ruth Linton

Requirement: MAGAZINE ARTICLES—
Choose one of the following topics. Write an article on the topic including examples and practise exercises for the reader.

WRITING 'VOICES' e.g. First person, second person etc.

TENSES – Past, Present, Future, Perfect and Continuous.

COLONS AND SEMI COLONS and their uses.

RULES FOR USING GOOD DIRECT SPEECH.

General Comments

Writing nonfiction articles is a useful genre to master though some may consider it less interesting than a short story or other fiction. Again only one entry was received which was disappointing. Life tends to be busy for us all and perhaps some were reluctant to do the research required. Congratulations to Julia Martin who continues to enter all the competitions and with good results. Although the only entry, I have awarded her second place because her points 6 and 7 were not 100% accurate. (See the judge's comments below.)

A good 'how to' article requires research as well as a clear logical writing style.

Particular attention to the introduction is required so the reader will want to read the article. Julia did very well here. By using rhetorical questions she piqued my interest from the start. I did feel her comment, 'No way', was almost flippant. 'Certainly not!' would work just as well.

By using numbered bullet points Julia made

it easy to understand the rules of punctuating direct speech. Language conventions change gradually over time so there are changes occurring in the area of writing direct speech. Point 6 is no longer completely accurate. Strictly the double speech marks are called speech marks and the single apostrophes are quotation marks used when quoting from someone else's writing. However, the single marks can be used as speech marks when the speaker quotes what someone else has actually said as part of their conversation. Julia's example is a very good example of this and is correctly punctuated.

Another area of change is in writing actual thoughts. The use of speech marks is no longer common and using italics is now the norm.

Julia brought her article to a stimulating conclusion. I would recommend readers try her challenge. If you have any queries I am sure Julia would be happy for you to email her: pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz

Second Place



**Julia
Martin**
of Cambridge

Say What You Mean

PUNCTUATION. Is it a thing of the past? Has it disappeared with hand-writing and the advent of texting and computers? Are punctuation marks just a pedantic exercise for academics and literary geeks? No way! Punctuation exists to assist the reader's understanding, much like the way road signs help a traveller on a journey.

In this article, we'll focus on **direct speech**.

So what is direct speech?

Direct speech records the exact words a person speaks.

“Shut the door Mary,” said Tom.

In contrast, **indirect speech** reports the words spoken.

Tom told Mary to shut the door.

The careful use of direct speech in writing makes the story come alive and the characters more life-like and believable. It's also a useful tool for showing rather than telling.

Rules to observe with direct speech:

1. The exact words spoken are enclosed in speech marks (also known as inverted commas or quotation marks).
“I am lost,” said the boy.
2. Speech marks precede the first word spoken and close after the last word is spoken.
Steve replied, “I don't feel well.”
3. The first word of a new piece of speech has a capital letter.
Fred shouted, “We must find them.”
4. For each new speaker, start a new line.
“Thank you for lunch,” said Lucy.
“You're welcome,” said her mother.
5. Full stops, commas, question marks, and exclamation marks all go inside the speech marks.

“Hello,” said David. “Where's Mary?”

“She's lost!” screamed Agnes.
“We can't find her anywhere.”

6. Speech marks can be single or double. Sometimes both are used.
“You've heard the saying, ‘Love is blind’, haven't you?”
Anna asked her friend.
7. When direct speech covers several paragraphs, speech marks are placed at the start of each paragraph, but only at the end of the final paragraph spoken.
8. Thoughts can be enclosed in speech marks or written in italics.
She's in big trouble now,
thought Trevor.
9. For effect, vary the dialogue tags used. Replace ‘said’ with words such as retorted, exclaimed, concluded, argued etc.

Now it's your turn. Punctuate the following, observing the rules above.

Oh no I'm lost cried the small girl can anyone help me there must be a way out she thought where did you come from asked the policeman didn't you read the sign no entry please help me she sobbed I want to go home hold my hand he replied you're safe now

**The Lord's promises are
pure, like silver refined in
a furnace, purified seven
times over.**

—Psalm 12:6

NZCW Writers' Groups

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If you are interested in joining a group in or near your area, please do not hesitate to contact the leader or host of the group for further details.

Should there be no group in your vicinity, and you would like to start one, the NZCW committee would love to hear from you.

NOTICE BOARD

Ruel Foundation

—an organisation on a mission to cure children in desperate need—

are looking for a writer / editor to be involved with their international communications.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Mark Brown on (021) 0288 6102

For further information on Ruel, go to <http://www.ruelfoundation.com/>



Dr Sandra Glahn from Dallas Theological Seminary

will be visiting Auckland in December to conduct a creative writing workshop.

Sandi would like to encourage believers to write what THEY know.

This will be Sandi's first time to New Zealand and she would love to hold a writer's workshop for maybe 4-6 hours. The charge would be \$5 and open to all ages and people. The plan is for Sandi to co-teach the workshop with her friend Henry Rouse, from Adelaide.

The proposed date is Wednesday 16th December. The venue is yet to be finalised.

For further details contact Janet Fleming on mjflamingos@xtra.co.nz

Competitions for December 2015

Due by November 10th

EMAIL ENTRY AS AN ATTACHMENT, COMPLETE WITH WORD COUNT AND YOUR NAME.

Font: Times New Roman, 11 points. **Line spacing:** single.

Spaces between Paragraphs: 6 points **Paragraph Indentation:** None.

Please send a high resolution photo of yourself in the event you are awarded a place.

Level One—for members 20 years old and over

Requirement: BIOGRAPHY— Write about the first time the true meaning of Christmas impacted you, and what it has come to mean to you since then. 400-500 words.

Email entry to: Debbie McDermott at: sddp@xtra.co.nz



*Debbie
McDermott*

Level Two—for members 20 years old and over

Requirement: IN BRIEF— Using 200 words exactly, (excluding title, word count, and your name), tell us how you believe Christmas or Easter should be celebrated today. Avoid commentary on what you think about current trends.

Email entry to: Jan Pendergrast at: jan@roads-end.co.nz



*Jan
Pendergrast*

Level Three— for members 20 years old and over

Requirement: SHORT STORY— Jesus said, in John 10:10, that he came that we might have life and life more abundant. Write a story (fiction, non-fiction or faction – a combination of both) to illustrate abundant life in a modern context. Avoid preaching; show, not tell. Maximum 500 words.

Email entry to: Ruth Linton at: ruthlinton2015@gmail.com



*Ruth
Linton*

Under 20s—for members 7-19 years old

Requirement: You are standing in the manger scene. What do you hear and smell? 250-300 words.

Email entry to: Vicki Nogaj at: nogaj@vodafone.co.nz



*Vicki
Nogaj*