

Reference Sheet for 2017

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Competitions for 2017

Your entry should be emailed as a Microsoft Word.doc attachment by the 10th of the month prior to the magazine's publication date. It needs to include your name, word count and—in the case of the Under 20s level—your age as well. Only one entry allowed per entrant in any given issue of the magazine.

For formatting guidelines, refer to the last page of each magazine

Which Level do I enter?

- Level 1:** A new member or beginner writer. Age limit: 20 years old or over.
- Level 2:** A member promoted from Level 1, or who has been placed in Level 2 after emailing samples of their writing in three different genres to Ruth Linton (ruthlinton2015@gmail.com). Age limit: 20 years old or over.
- Level 3:** Open to members who have moved up from Level 2 and to those on the Honours List. Age limit: 20 years old or over.
- Under 20s:** Open to members in the 7-19 year old age group.

LEVEL ONE Judge – Debbie McDermott

FEBRUARY – due January 10th

Write a short story involving conflict between two or more people, showing how the situation is diffused by putting into practice the principles taught in the Bible; e.g. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. 400-450 words.

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

APRIL – due March 10th

Put together a 'bucket' list of four to five things you would really like to do one day, explaining why you would like to do them. 250-300 words.

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

JUNE – due May 10th

Write a four-minute speech on why you think family is important. Make sure you express your Christian worldview clearly, but without being preachy. 400 words.

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

AUGUST – due July 10th

Retell a lesser known Bible story in a manner that would appeal to a teenager. Use language appropriate to this age group and avoid being preachy. 500 words max. (Include titles and scripture references in your word count.)

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

OCTOBER – due September 10th

Write a modern day fable with a strong Christian moral. Remember the main characters in a fable are always represented by animals; e.g. the hare and the tortoise. 400 words.

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

DECEMBER – due November 10th

Research the background story of a traditional or modern Christmas carol and include your personal thoughts and reflections on this. 300 words.

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

LEVEL TWO Judges – Janet Fleming | Jan Pendergrast | Jeanette Knudsen

FEBRUARY – due January 10th

Write a simple song or chorus for use in Sunday School. You may use an existing tune or write your own music. 4 verses maximum.

Email entry to Janet Fleming at mjflamingos@xtra.co.nz

APRIL – due March 10th

Write a short story of an event that significantly impacted your life, and why. 400 words.

Email entry to Janet Fleming at mjflamingos@xtra.co.nz

JUNE – due May 10th

Write a collection of treasured moments and memories to make up a written treasure chest. Try and write a short paragraph per memory or one sentence for shorter moments. Give each one a title or precious stone e.g. Ruby. Max 500 words.

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

AUGUST – due July 10th

Write a letter to the editor on a current controversial topic, seeking to include a message without being too preachy. Keep it brief. 250 words

Email entry to Janet Fleming at mjflamingos@xtra.co.nz

OCTOBER – due September 10th

Research your family history and write about someone who inspires or interests you from a previous generation. 400 words maximum.

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

DECEMBER – due November 10th

Combining part of your testimony with the gospel message, write a Christian leaflet for giving to seekers that includes a call to consider the claims of Jesus Christ and receive him. To create the same eye-catching effect of a leaflet, change your page size to A5 and its orientation from portrait to landscape. Then typeset your text in 4 columns. Include a picture if you like. 500 words max.

Email entry to Jeanette Knudsen at knudsen@bopis.co.nz

LEVEL 3 Judges – Julia Martin | Jan Pendergrast

FEBRUARY – due January 10th

Write a submission to a Government Select Committee on a current issue, following the rules of making a submission. (See <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/how-to-make-a-submission>). A Christian viewpoint is optional. You may present it to the Select Committee before your entry is judged if there is a deadline you would otherwise miss. 250 words maximum, including details such as the name of the subject, the name of the Select Committee, etc.

Email entry to Julia Martin at pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz

APRIL – due March 10th

Write a 4-5 minute children's play suitable for an Easter production at a public primary school. The message and directions should be simple and clear, for children aged about 8-10 years old. Have a maximum of 5 characters, although some extras for background effects and props are acceptable. 500 words maximum (including necessary stage instructions).

Email entry to Julia Martin at pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz

JUNE – due May 10th

Write a practical but sensitively worded letter to a friend who is going through a trial similar to one you have experienced. Tell how God helped you through your trial, and how you believe God can help your friend through his or her trial. Although an imaginary friend is acceptable, your letter will probably appear more authentic if written for a real friend. You can change details to preserve anonymity. 200-250 words.

Email entry to Julia Martin at pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz

AUGUST – due July 10th

Research an archaeological discovery made in the past 100 years which reinforces the authenticity of the Bible. Then write an article for a suitable magazine (which you may name if you have one in mind) about this research. Focus on the content rather than your thoughts, and make sure the article flows well. Include a brief bibliography. The main content of the article (that is, excluding the bibliography) must not exceed 400 words.

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

OCTOBER – due September 10th

Choose any book of the Bible with a minimum of 10 chapters. Treat it as an individual book and write a book review for it, excluding any irrelevant details such as price or publisher. 250-300 words, including all parts of your review.

Email entry to Julia Martin at pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz

DECEMBER – due November 10th

Write a poem giving humorous and practical advice to a newly engaged couple. (Nothing too intimate of course.) This poem should have discernible rhythm and a clear rhyming pattern. 25-30 lines.

Email entry to Julia Martin at pemburyestate@slingshot.co.nz

UNDER 20s Judge – Vicki Nogaj

FEBRUARY – due January 10th

There are some unique symbiotic relationships in creation like the crocodile and the plover bird. Write a conversation that occurs between these creatures. 200-300 words

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

APRIL – due March 10th

Write a Gratitude or 'I am Thankful' poem. Maximum of 5 verses, with each verse consisting of 4 lines. Rhythm and rhyme optional.

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

JUNE – due May 10th

Design a treasure hunt and come up with 10 creative clues to lead someone to your treasure. Use a real or imagined location or map as the basis for your hunt, and make sure you provide your reader with a starting point for the first clue. Each clue should hint at where the next clue can be found. Reveal what your treasure is at the end. 250 words.

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

AUGUST – due July 10th

Personal Testimony: When have you applied the phrase 'No Fear' in your life? 450 words maximum.

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

OCTOBER – due September 10th

'Bridging the Gap'. As a young person, how would you reach out and connect with the older generation, and what can they do to relate and reach today's young person? 400 words.

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

DECEMBER – due November 10th

Write a set of steps or instructions on 'How to...'. Choose a real or imagined topic. 300 words.

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