



# CALEB Award - Published Awards

## Introduction

The CALEB Award from Omega Writers recognises the best in Australasian Christian writing, published and unpublished, giving Christian writers an opportunity to be celebrated for their commitment to their craft.

CALEB stands for Christian Authors Lifting Each other's Books. In the Biblical book of Joshua, Caleb was one of two spies to go into the land of Israel and bring back a good report. Caleb said that the Israelites would have success because God was with them, even though there were giants ahead of them.

As Christian writers in the Australasian region, we can often feel dwarfed by the apparent 'giants' of international publishing. However, God is still with us in our writing, and we can press on with courage and encouragement in him.

The aim of the CALEB awards is to encourage and promote Christian writers from Australia, New Zealand and the south Pacific who are courageously writing and publishing books from a Christian worldview.

Thus, the CALEB Award:

- Supports excellence in Australasian Christian writing by encouraging and educating writers, regardless of genre.
- Encourages excellence in Australasian books by recognising and rewarding our best writers writing from a Christian worldview.

The CALEB Award has two streams - published and unpublished - which run in alternate years. There is also a biennial Barnabas Award, recognising a writer who goes out of their way to support and encourage others in their writing journey.

The CALEB Award is run by volunteer members of Omega Writers. Our judges are also volunteers, and we welcome Christian readers and writers from Australia, New Zealand and the south Pacific to contribute as judges.

The award is open to members and non-members to enter; however, the Omega Writers President and CALEB Award Coordinator are not eligible to enter. Competitors may judge in the same year that they enter, but they are prohibited from judging in the same category as their own entries. The Barnabas Award is chosen on the merit of nominations received by the CALEB Committee.

Entry fees are discounted for current Omega Writers members. There is no fee to nominate for the Barnabas Award.

## Published Awards

The Published sections of the CALEB Award are our opportunity to recognise excellence in writing by Christian writing and celebrate the books they have published.



The awards are open to the following genres:

- Picture books
- Children's fiction (early reader to middle grade)
- Young Adult fiction
- General fiction (the award may be divided into specific genres if there is a sufficient number of entries in each genre e.g. romance, fantasy)
- General memoir/biography
- General non-fiction (excluding memoir/biography).
- A Special Category may be included in the awards from time to time. This would include poetry, gift books, short stories and/or other non-traditional formats.

Categories run are subject to receiving at least seven entries in each category, and sufficient volunteers to judge. Omega Writers reserves the right to change or cancel categories based on entries and the availability of volunteer judges.

All categories except children's picture books are electronic only. This makes it easier and cheaper for us to manage the contest (as we're not posting books to judges).

Entrants will provide a PDF OR DRM-free EPUB file (which will be forwarded to judges).

The Published Awards run in **even** years. Check the website for the competition dates and current categories.

## General Rules (for all entrants)

1. Entrants must acknowledge the Nicene Creed, which is the Omega Writers Statement of Belief (<https://www.omegawriters.com.au/join-us>).
2. All entries should conform to a traditional Christian worldview, although Christian content is not mandatory.
3. Entrants must be citizens or residents of Australia, New Zealand, or the south Pacific.
4. The current President of Omega Writers and the CALEB Coordinator are not eligible to enter the CALEB Award.
5. Entrants may not volunteer to judge in the same category as their own entries.
6. Entrants must follow all contest rules or their entry will be disqualified and their entry fee forfeited.
7. Any entry found to contain plagiarised text (including insufficiently attributed quotations from copyright material) will be disqualified and the entry fee forfeited.
8. AI generated books may not be entered. Any entry found to contain AI or plagiarised content will be disqualified, and the entry fee forfeited.
9. All entries must be submitted via the online entry form, available on the Omega Writers website when the award is open for entries.



10. Entrants confirm they are the sole author of the entry. Where books are written by more than one person (including but not limited to a ghostwriter), all contributing writers must be named on the entry form.
11. There must be a minimum of seven entries in each category for an award to be made in that category.
12. Late entries will not be accepted.
13. Full payment must be made before an entry is accepted for the award.
14. If there are insufficient entries to run a category, the entries received for that category will receive a refund of their entry fee and the manuscripts will not be judged.

## Published Award Rules

1. Books that have been traditionally published, published using a hybrid, assisted-publishing model or self-published are all eligible for the award.
2. Short stories, anthologies, and novellas are not eligible unless included in a Special Category entry. If unsure, please contact award organisers.
3. Books must have a copyright date in the last two years (excluding the year of the award) e.g. entrants in the 2024 Published categories must have a copyright date of 2022 or 2023.
4. Books may not be entered in the Published section of the CALEB Award more than once.
5. Books which were previously entered in the CALEB Unpublished Award may be entered.
6. Word counts for each category are:
  - a) Children's picture books must be between 100 and 1,000 words, as determined by computer word count.
  - b) Children's fiction entries must be between 1,000 and 50,000 words, as determined by computer word count.
  - c) Young Adult Fiction entries must be between 40,000 and 100,000 words, as determined by computer word count.
  - d) General Fiction entries must be between 40,000 and 120,000 words, as determined by computer word count.
  - e) Non-fiction entries must be a minimum of 20 000 words, as determined by computer word count.
  - f) All entries must be a maximum of 120,000 words, as determined by computer word count, unless prior exemption has been requested.
  - g) Note: Word counts are based on industry standards. If entrants feel their book has an exceptional case to waiver these word count limits, please contact the CALEB organising committee. Any decision for eligibility is at the discretion of the committee. Email: [caleb@omegawriters.com.au](mailto:caleb@omegawriters.com.au)
10. Children's Picture Books will be judged in hard copy (i.e. print only).
  - a) Once your Picture Book entry is confirmed and we have received enough entries for the category to proceed, then we will ask you to forward three (3) print copies to our Children's Award Coordinator.



- b) Finalists will be asked to forward an additional three (3) print copies of their Picture Book for final-round judging within one week of the finalists being announced.
11. All other categories accept electronic entries only (see clause 12 for exceptions):
- a) Please submit one PDF OR DRM free EPUB file of your full manuscript. Save and send your file with the file name: CALEB-Category-Title (Eg. CALEB-YAfiction-OutOfTheCages)
    - 1. The electronic copy must be able to be read on common ereader devices (e.g., Kindle, Kobo) and allow judges to adjust the format or font according to their own reading preferences (depending on their device). Fixed format, password-protected, and watermarked PDFs can hinder the reading experience.
    - 2. The entry must be submitted in a single PDF OR EPUB file no larger than 3MB. Larger files will not be accepted.
  - b) The electronic copy may include your cover image, front matter, and back matter as long as the file does not exceed 3MB, but these are not required and are not judged.
12. NOTE: If, for whatever reason, entrants feel their book is unsuitable for digital submission but would like to have their book included in the award, please contact the CALEB organising committee. Print entries may be possible, depending on judging availability, but will incur an additional fee to cover postage and handling. Email: [caleb@omegawriters.com.au](mailto:caleb@omegawriters.com.au)
13. There will be no preference given to hard copy or digital entries received according to the judging criteria.
14. The decisions of the CALEB committee and those of the judges are final and no correspondence will be entered into after the award has closed for entries.