

OutStanding Judges Report 2021

I am so happy to present the Judges Report for OutStanding 2021. The best thing about being a judge is reading all the amazing stories, the worst thing is having to choose just a few winners. Speaking for Sophie, Robert, and myself...we love our job! As usual we laughed and cried all the way.

Every writer is special not just the winners. You can all be proud!!

80 entries came in, a bit down on usual, but great considering all the stress of Covid and lockdowns this last year. We love the inclusivity of the competition, with writers from all states, ages, and across our queer spectrum.

So many amazing Oops moments! Unexpected shocks and things not working out quite as hoped! As always you gave us lots of fun, but also some hard hitting stories revealing issues often hidden in our community.

It's quite a skill to tell a story in 750 words!

So, what do we look for in a winning story... excellence in writing, an easy flow from beginning to end, a story that will move or surprise. And is original. The standard this year was exceptional. I think you'll agree when you read or hear them. All our winners had that wow factor we love so much! There was so much truth and courage in all the stories, the shared experiences of being queer in a straight world.

I thank Sophie and Robert, judging the competition with them is a total pleasure, and my thanks also to the wonderful Nicky and Stafford on our Committee. OutStanding truly has a dream team!

Big thanks to everyone who participated and congrats to winners of 2021.

Gail Hewison

Judges OutStanding 2021 (Gail Hewison, Sophie Robinson, Robert Tait)