

## OutStanding Short Story Competition 2022

### Judges Report

In spite of another year of Covid and semi-isolation, and being on Zoom again, we were well supported by our writing community and very happily surprised with many fabulous entries. Yet again we would love to give more prizes.

A benefit of Zoom has been that we have extended our reach far and wide. This year our winners come from all over Australia...from Sydney, Melbourne, rural Victoria, Newcastle, Bellingen, Canberra, and also New Zealand. Just as well we are on Zoom tonight as we may not have a lot of writers turning up to a face-to-face Awards Event. Something to consider for the future. Will we ever get back face to face to share a drink and a story?

Our talented writers came up with some amazing surprise endings. Our judges laughed and cried as usual and were blown away by some of the surprise endings. Over the top originality !!

And most stories shone with the authenticity of lived experience. Could anyone have more stories to tell than this queer community of ours.

I always like to remind you that we see the stories with no identity attached, so the final list of names is always a surprise. This year we were delighted to have both new prizewinners and several old friends who have received awards before. To those who didn't win a prize this year, you are also fabulous, we loved every story we received, and do believe the standard of writing gets higher every year. Please keep writing as our stories need to be told.

As judges of this fabulous competitions, we thank you all for participating and say congratulations to the winners.

Gail, Robert, Sophie, Stafford