

## Judges Report

### OutStanding 2023

Firstly, congratulations to every writer who entered this year. You gave us possibly our highest ever standard of writing and an enormous task to judge. Every story we received was special. If only we could give more prizes...as so many of you entered prize winning stories this year.

Our winners gave us stories of great power, and imagination, moved us often to tears or to laughing out loud. Sometimes a surprise ending gave impact. Another plus was originality in interpreting the theme Queer As.

It takes great skill to complete a winning story in 750 words, to introduce one or two characters, place them in a location, and make something happen to a conclusion and to make it all impressive. Our winners succeeded so well in doing this.

Of course, we also looked for that superb writing style, that mysterious element where the words flow and the story is simply perfect, where every word is in just the right place. The wow factor!

We don't see the names of the writers until after we have finished judging, so it's always a pleasant surprise to see new faces, or familiar names, and writers coming in from all over Australia.

Thanks to fellow judges and committee, always a great pleasure working with you. And congratulations to our winning writers. You are all fabulous.

Thank you for being part of Outstanding.

Gail Hewison

For OutStanding 2023 Judges