

## Geelong Writers Finest 500 2022 winners & honourable mentions

- The criteria used when reading each piece: all the entries were judged blind
  - My criteria was simple: 1) how well the author developed/evoked a sense of place, including exploring the emotional/psychological aspect/s of that place; 2) the writer's style - clarity of expression, the overall structure of the piece, the writer's vocabulary, and editing; 3) word limit – did the writer adhere to 500 words or less?
  - An additional 3 writers deserved honourable mentions as well:
  - **Kym** Tyzack, for the 'The Amethyst Room'
  - **Julie** Rysdale, for 'Belonging Yet Only a Witness', and
  - **Adrian** Brookes, for 'Burntwood'.
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- **Top 3**
  - I'll start with 3<sup>rd</sup> place. When I read this writer describe entering a cold seawater pool as 'the rush of my breath galloping away', I could almost feel my skin getting goosebumps. Congratulations **Jo Curtain** for your story, 'Weightless Yet Stronger'.
  - In 2<sup>nd</sup> place, this writer took me, in leaps and bounds, to a place that is sacred to so many of us, the MCG! Congratulations, **Judy Rankin**, for your story, 'Grand Final Day'.
  - And in 1<sup>st</sup> place, for an opening paragraph that literally made me jump, and the creation of a world seen through a child's eyes, I'd like to congratulate, **Catherine Bell**, for your superb story, 'Living at the edge of the world'.