

2022 My Brother Jack Awards

Open Poetry Award

Congratulations to all the wonderful poets who entered the My Brother Jack Awards this year and much admiration and praise to those incredible writers who won!

These 2022 submissions are full of vitality, poems about: nature, togetherness, culture, home, open spaces and many personal journeys. Amongst these were pieces also experimenting with form. It is a pleasure and an honour to read through the depth and diversity of work. Of course, as always, it must be said, it is difficult to pick only just a few. So many that have not received formal recognition in these awards deserve to be read and cherished by others. I hope one day soon they will.

Open Poetry

This was a section full of many arresting images, stanzas and poems, all lingering somewhere inside my head.

Winner: *Outback birth*

'Outback birth' was one of those poems I kept coming back to again and again for its gentle meditation on memory. It is lyrical in its simplicity of paring everything back to the portrait's essentials. Those moments in the sun, the recollections of what has been and the hope of what things might become.

'the tall grasses/ wave me to a river/ and there suddenly/ silently I awaken to a/ waterfall...'

Second: *Sub Way*

This poem elegantly captures those small moments of travel and ordinarily curious interactions.

Third: *every poem, an attempt*

A captivating poem on the writing process and finding the right words in the perfect order.

Highly Commended:

Trampoline

This piece expresses the hectic everyday moments of family life and the changes we inevitably go through.

Memo

An entertaining and witty poem, artfully playing around with language and meaning.

- **Alicia Sometimes**