



Dorothy Hewett. Image A. T. Bolton courtesy of the National Library of Australia.

THE DOROTHY HEWETT AWARD: THE 2018 WINNER ANNOUNCED, AND CHANGES TO AWARD

The Monthly

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Western Australian poet Julie Watts has won the 2018 Dorothy Hewett Award for her manuscript, 'Legacy.' 'Legacy' is the first poetry manuscript to win the \$10,000 prize, following on from the novels *Extinctions* by Josephine Willson and *Drawing Sybylla* by Odette Kelada.

The author described 'Legacy' as a volume that 'explores the templates and legacies of our internal and external worlds, the psychological inheritance we share and pass on, the interplay between the prime influence of nature and nurture and the crucial, inherent drive for connection.' The judges praised Julie Watts for her poetry's 'delicate strength' and 'maturity of voice and craft.'

The 2018 judges' panel consisted of Lucy Dougan, poet and niece of Dorothy Hewett; James Ley, literary critic and Contributing Editor of *Sydney Review of Books*; and Terri-ann White, Director of UWA Publishing. There were ninety-nine entries in the 2018 award.

The selection of 'Legacy' as the winner of the 2018 Dorothy Hewett Award continues UWA Publishing's commitment to poetry. 'Legacy' will be published as part of the UWAP Poetry imprint, established late 2016 and with 23 books already to its name. Terri-ann White commented that 'in darker times, such as those we are living through today, when uncertainty is rife and the vulnerability of the human body and mind are exposed, poetry becomes important again.'

Legacy will be published in October 2018.

The 2019 Dorothy Hewett Award, which will open for submissions in May, has one key change: it will not require manuscripts to be connected to Western Australia, as has been the case since its establishment in 2015. Terri-ann White says she is excited to open up the award to all Australian writers working in the fields of fiction, creative-non fiction and poetry as part of the evolution of the award as an important talent-spotter.

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