

MEDIA RELEASE

The annual UWAP Dorothy Hewett Award



---

## Karen Wyld wins the UWAP DOROTHY HEWETT AWARD for *Where the Fruit Falls*.

---

EMBARGOED 7pm WST, Friday February 21.

*Where the Fruit Falls* by South Australia writer Karen Wyld has won the 2020 UWAP Dorothy Hewett Award for an Unpublished Manuscript.

“I’m still in disbelief. I entered my manuscript on the last day of the award submissions. I’m so pleased my novel will be published by UWAP in October this year”. – Winner Karen Wyld.



*Where the Fruit Falls* is a novel that gives voice to three generations of displaced Indigenous women determined to return to their ancestral Country. Country has an omniscient presence in their story lines, guiding the women across vivid desert and coastal landscapes. In our reading we are invited to listen and learn about Indigenous women’s ways of being in their worlds. As the novel opens: “An ancient ocean roars under the red dirt. Hush. Be still for just a moment. Hear its thundering waves crashing on unseen shores”.

The judges remarked on the manuscript, “In poetic and evocative storytelling, this writing celebrates the agency of Indigenous women to traverse ever-present landscapes of colonisation and intergenerational trauma”. In this way, *Where the Fruit Falls* recognises both the open wounds of living histories of colonisation and the healing power of belonging to Country. The promise of this novel is in this exploration of healing, and how next generations of Indigenous women might reconcile themselves with inherited histories of colonisation and carve out new pathways for themselves. We were unanimous in selecting Karen Wyld’s novel as this year’s winner of the Dorothy Hewett Award for an unpublished manuscript”.

Publisher Terri-ann White said at the announcement, “We are thrilled at UWA Publishing to be awarding our fifth Dorothy Hewett Award for an unpublished manuscript to a fascinating and moving novel by First Nations writer Karen Wyld from South Australia. *Where the Fruit Falls* matches the extremities of human emotions with the extremities (and beauty) of the Australian landscape. It’s a wonderful novel and we can’t wait to show it to readers across the country”.

“We also made the award of Highly Commended to another shortlisted writer: Western Australian Caitlin Maling, for her volume of poems *Fish Work*. We are very pleased to welcome Caitlin into our esteemed UWAP Poetry series”.

Both books will be released in October 2020, marking the eighth and ninth titles to come out of this nationally focused manuscript award.

“Thanks to the 200-plus writers who submitted this year, and the Copyright Agency for continuing to back us with this initiative,” said Publisher Terri-ann White.

## KAREN WYLD BIOGRAPHY

Karen Wyld lives in SA but her grandmother's country (Martu) is in Western Australia's Pilbara. She is a freelance writer, author and consultant. Karen regularly contributes op-eds for NITV and IndigenousX, and has been published in Al Jazeera, Meanjin, Junkee and Guardian Australia. She writes trade reviews for Books & Publishing and has been published in Sydney Review of Books. Her debut novel *When Rosa Came Home* was short-listed for the 2015 SA People's Choice Award.

The six shortlisted manuscripts announced in December 2019 were:

- *The Sorry Tale of the Mignonette* by Angela Gardner (Qld) Poetry
- *K. the Interpreter* by Martin Kovan (NSW) Fiction
- *Fish Work* by Caitlin Maling (WA) Poetry
- *Children of Lovers* by Kylie Mirmohamadi (Victoria) Fiction
- *The Rabbit Paperweight* by Robin Riedstra (NSW) Fiction
- *Where the Fruit Falls* by Karen Wyld (South Australia) Fiction

## AWARD INFORMATION

Dorothy Hewett (1923-2002) is considered one of Australia's leading writers whose work captures and disrupts ideas of normalcy in twentieth century Australian culture. As a staunch feminist and, for a long time, a communist, Hewett gave voice to the marginalised. In 1986, Hewett was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her services to literature. Hewett won the Western Australian Premier's Poetry Award in 1994 and 1995 for her collections *Peninsula* and *Collected Poems: 1940-1995*.

The Dorothy Hewett Award is open to all writers who have completed a manuscript and are seeking publication. The work must be fiction, narrative nonfiction or poetry, inclusive of hybrid genres such as verse novels or memoir. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$10,000, courtesy of Copyright Agency, and will be offered a publishing contract by UWA Publishing.

The judges for the 2020 award are Terri-ann White, Director UWA Publishing; Elfie Shiosaki, Lecturer in the School of Indigenous Studies at The University of Western Australia; and James Ley, author and contributing editor of *Sydney Review of Books*.

The 2015 winner of the Dorothy Hewett Award, *Extinctions* by Josephine Wilson went on to win the Miles Franklin Award in 2017. This month UWAP publishes the B Format Edition.

The Dorothy Hewett award is supported by The Copyright Agency.

**COPYRIGHT AGENCY**  
CULTURAL FUND



For all enquiries contact Benython Oldfield for UWA Publishing

TEL +61 410 355 790

EMAIL [benython@zeitgeistmediagroup.com](mailto:benython@zeitgeistmediagroup.com)

WEB [www.uwap.com.au](http://www.uwap.com.au)

SOCIAL @uwapublishing