

Westerly

8 November 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We at *Westerly* are shocked and dismayed by the announcement of the closure of UWA Publishing (UWAP). UWAP is a vital part of the Western Australian publishing sector and the literary life of Australia more broadly. Losing the press would come at great cost to Australian literature.

UWAP has made enormous contribution to the culture of Australian writing in its 85-year history. It has a rich heritage and an essential back-catalogue. As Publisher, Professor Terri-ann White has supported writers who articulate the many varied experiences of life, culture, and forms of writing. We have long applauded her work, and admire the vigour and integrity with which she has always supported Australian literature.

Under Terri-ann, UWAP has displayed immense courage in its editorial direction, publishing a new generation of poets, Miles Franklin Award winners, and scholars from Western Australia and further afield. They have published a diverse and inclusive list, championing voices who might otherwise go unrecognised. As one example in many, we have long been in awe of UWAP's commitment to supporting Indigenous cultures, shown in its partnership with the Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project, and the promotion of many talented writers including amongst others Lisa Bellear and Kankawa Nagarra Olive Knight.

This legacy should not be compromised. The closure of UWA Publishing would represent the elimination of an important outlet for Western Australian and Australian writers. The short-sightedness of this decision is highly concerning. The University is effectively risking the futures of its own students in compromising the viability of Western Australia's writing and publishing sector.

We are deeply disappointed in the University's decision, and we call on the University to reconsider its position on this matter.

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Media contact:

Dr Catherine Noske (Editor)

Tel +61 8 6488 3403 / +61 427 233 467

westerly@uwa.edu.au

About *Westerly*

Westerly, one of Australia's leading literary journals, is published by The Westerly Centre and is based at The University of Western Australia. Since its inception in 1956, *Westerly* has published fiction, poetry and essays with a special emphasis on Australia, particularly WA, and the Asian region.

It has been instrumental in the careers of many national and internationally renowned writers including major WA writers such as Randolph Stow, Dorothy Hewett, T. A. G. Hungerford and Elizabeth Jolley; highly-awarded contemporary writers, including Tim Winton, Kim Scott, and Sally Morgan; and important local poets like John Kinsella, Tracy Ryan, John Mateer, and Lucy Dougan.