

63.2

New Writing from
Western Australia

Fiction

Creative Non-Fiction

Poetry

Essays

In this Issue

David Malouf

Julie Dowling

Rose Lucas

John Kinsella &

Fay Zwicky

Westerly



Westerly

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Westerly acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as First Australians. We celebrate the continuous living cultures of Indigenous people and their vital contributions within Australian society.

Westerly's office, at the University of Western Australia, is located on Whadjak Noongar land. We recognise the Noongar people as the spiritual and cultural custodians of this land.

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Visitations Rita Tognini

Rita Tognini is a WA poet and short fiction writer. Her poetry has been published in *Australian Poetry Anthology*, *Creatrix*, *Cuttlefish*, *Imago*, *Fremantle Arts Review*, *Overland*, *Uneven Floor*, *Westerly* and other journals. Rita has won prizes and commendations for her work.

Twice they came, New Year's morning
forest red-tailed black cockatoos.

First four mature birds
poised sentinel still
in the hakea's grey-green foliage
posed as if for a portrait
Elvis-crest combed back
huge hooked beak clamped shut.

Then a flurry of adolescents
sashayed from branch to branch
all bravura and quivering tail feathers
tearing at bivalve nuts
lacerating the foliage
quarrelling over leftovers
scattering husks and twigs.

Black cockatoos
stop over to refuel

black cockatoos
take off like Harrier jets

blood-red undercarriages
between canopy and sky.

Settler Meets Sky Knowledge Nadia Rhook

Nadia Rhook is a white settler historian, teacher and poet, recently moved onto Whadjuk Noongar land. She researches Asian migration and settler colonialism in Australia, and her poetry explores the geographies of colonialism and whiteness. It has appeared in *Cordite*, *Peril* and *Mascara*.

now that you mention it
I once felt the stars
in my body

lying on my stomach on the trampoline
bathed in Ballarat dusk
one fell and entered my spine

and now that you mention it, I
only knew where I was
when I looked up

the saucepan, always, always
had a handle

but I never knew the stars
reflect the land, the seasons, souls

never knew that