

A new shade of home-grown writing

The colour of West Australia's literary landscape is changing with the addition of new literary journal *indigo*, the first journal devoted specifically to West Australian writers.

Launched in August this year, the bi-annual journal was established by Out of the Asylum Writers' Group (OOTA), an independent group of writers who have been meeting regularly and publishing their own works since their beginnings as a writing class at former Women's Asylum, the Fremantle Arts Centre.

Donna Ward, former president of OOTA and *indigo* founder and managing editor, says the journal came about as a means of providing much-needed publishing opportunities for WA writers and increasing their national profile.

"It acts as a forum for the really vibrant community of writers that are here – *indigo* has, in a way, become the place for WA writers to coalesce."

The immense response from writers to the inaugural issue saw close to 188 entries, representing 500 individual pieces of work, from those writers who currently live in WA, or have lived there for at least ten years. For the next issue, due to be published in March 2008, Donna hints there will be a strong poetry focus, with Les Murray as guest editor, John Kinsella writing editorial, and an interview with Dennis Haskell, this year's Premier Award winning poet.

The profile and distribution of the next issue of *indigo* will also benefit from an intensified marketing strategy, with CAL Cultural Funding contributing to new marketing materials and the appointment of a marketing consultant. The journal is presently distributed via bookstores, subscriptions and online orders, with hopes that the CAL funding will help to further propel *indigo* into the hands of more readers across Australia.

For more information visit www.indigojournal.org.au

