

Group publishes new literary journal

ONE OF Western Australia's high-profile writers' groups has created a new literary journal called INDIGO. Describing itself as Perth's most well respected and vibrant writers' group, Out of the Asylum is responsible for the new publication, which managing editor Donna Ward believes will be well received.

"There has never been anything like INDIGO before." Ms Ward said.

"INDIGO is for WA writers only. Making INDIGO open only to WA writers makes it unique."

Ms Ward said that the only other journal based in WA is "Westerly", but it takes submissions from all over Australia, and internationally.

An experienced Jungian based psychotherapist, Ms Ward noticed the limited opportunities for WA writers to get published when she became president of the Out of the Asylum Writers' Group. Last year she resigned as president in order to establish INDIGO.

"I believe it's about time WA writers have a chance to develop a career in this state instead of feeling forced to move east. Writers who stay here for personal reasons eek out a living in our beautiful backwater," she said.

"The lifestyle here is great, but the cultural life is constantly under threat from poor funding and the exodus of talent. We need a project that will assist our talented people to stay here."

Out of the Asylum has offered publishing opportunities for WA writers for the past 12 years. It has self published three anthologies of members' work and in May this year Sunline Press will publish its manuscript of Western Australian poetry; The Weighing of the Heart, the first anthology of WA poetry to come out in over 10 years.

INDIGO is the latest in a range of activities undertaken by Out of the Asylum to support its members in getting their work published.