

## **ANNAMARIA WELDON – BIO NOTES FOR MEDIA – March 2011**

West Australian writer Annamaria Weldon's essay *Threshold Country* has won the inaugural **Nature Conservancy Australia Essay Prize for Nature Writing** and her 3 sonnet suite *The memory of earth*. has won **The Tom Collins Poetry Prize**. Both awards were announced in February 2011.

She has a poetry collection, *The Roof Milkers*, published by Sunline Press in 2008.

Her work includes creative non-fiction, reviews and short stories. It has been published in Australian literary journals and anthologies including *Science Made Marvellous* (Poets Union), *22* (writingWA), *Island*, *Westerly*, *Stylus*, *Five Bells*, *Landscapes*, *Red Room Company*, *Indigo* and *dotdotdash*, broadcast on ABC Radio national's *Poetica* and *Short Story* programs, presented as theatre with music and dance, and recorded on a CD of WA poets which is a literature resource for WA High School students.

Weldon is working on a landscape journal of memoir, poems and photos based on her experiences of Yalgorup National Park and Lake Clifton's thrombolites. She writes of herself as 'the Lake's apprentice'.

The Yalgorup wetlands, located 100 kilometres south of her home near Fremantle, are the focus of *Adaptation*, a long-term ecological investigation hosted by SymbioticA at the University of Western Australia.

Weldon, as Artist-in-Residence at *Adaptation* in 2009 and 2010, collaborated with naturalist Laurie Smith to develop *Sharing the Edge*, a creative research and community outreach project.

Weldon's narratives of place navigate natural science, local tradition and personal stories, exploring the connections in cross-cultural experiences of country. Last year she held 20 writing workshops in Perth, Fremantle, Mandurah and Denmark based on this work and sponsored by writingWA, City of Mandurah, Country Arts Network W.A., Community First International, Poets Union and Denmark Arts.

She acknowledges Nyungar Bindjareb musician, cultural leader and teacher George Walley as a mentor in her Yalgorup work. With George and several key community artists, Annamaria combined her poetry reading and photography with a theatre presentation of contemporary, indigenous dance, live music and projected images on the opening night of Stretch Festival 2010 in Mandurah W.A.

In 2009 she became interested in nature photography and since then Weldon's pictures of the Lake Clifton thrombolites have been exhibited at UWA's new Science Library's opening exhibition *Evolution in Action – Charles Darwin and Western Australia's bio-diversity hotspot* 2009, in the 2010 Museums Australia exhibition *Wetlands – from Bunyip to Beautiful*, and published in *Artsource*, *Science Matters*, *Terrain.org*, *Landscape* and *dotdotdash*.

Annamaria Weldon was born in Malta. She spent her childhood in North Africa, Central America and the U.K., returning to the island to complete her education. It is where she began work as a journalist in 1978 and was first published as a poet. After moving to Perth in 1984, she wrote for The West Australian newspaper for several years. She has worked in public relations, as a freelance journalist, and managed care and accommodation for the aged.

From 1998 she was able to write full time and develop her creative non-fiction and poetry.

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