

# Poetry in Black Ink

## Collection is a first for new Qld publisher



A total of 28 Indigenous contributors have their work featured in the first book from a new publisher called Black Ink Press. Black Ink Press is based in Townsville, north Queensland, and has an office on the grounds

of the Shalom College. It is an arm of the Yalga-binbi Institute for Community Development.

The first publication is titled 'Crow Feathers: An Indigenous Collection of Poems and Images'.

Project co-ordinator Jeanie Adams and her offsider Lena Adams are excited that Indigenous poets have the opportunity to display their talents.

The book was edited by Rebecca Edwards and Janelle Evans and was launched in Townsville during NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Jeanie Adams was born in Victoria and lived for some years at the Gulf of Carpentaria community of Aurukun. She already has authored several books.

Lena Adams was born at New Mapoon, near Weipa, and one of her poems is included in the book.

Yalga-binbi director Lurleen Blackman is excited with the new book of traditional poetry.



With a copy of 'Crow Feathers: An Indigenous Collection of Poems and Images' are Lurleen Blackman, Lena Adams and Jeanie Adams

"I am really proud of the book and it is about time that such a book was put into print to feature work by Indigenous people," she said.

Poets include John Lewis Clark, Marian Go-Sam, Kathleen Davies, Lindsay Ohi, Ellen Go-Sam, Dennis Fisher, the late Colin J Daisy (1954-2003), Malcolm Bally, Belynda 'Bindi' Waugh, Lavinia Ahlers, John Paiwan, Janelle Evans, Harry Daphney, Kevin Brown, Sally

Davis, Letitia Scott, Bonnie Cavanagh, Ella Kris, Robert Salt, Glenda Power, Alison Salt and Lena Adams.

Illustrations have been created by Janelle Evans, John Lewis Clark, Kathleen Davies, Jaquanna Elliot, Belynda Waugh, Kate Oates, Garry Namponan, Del Kendrick, Sally Davis, and Robbie Paul.

Jeanie Adams said many of the poems were short-listed from the inaugural Black Ink

Writers and Illustrators Awards judged in early 2002. "This illustrated selection aims to encourage more aspiring writers and illustrators to develop their talents and create better books for readers of all cultural backgrounds. We hope that the book will be on display for people of all ages and that includes children and teenagers," she said.

'Crow Feathers' was given the stamp of approval by noted Aboriginal writer Boori Monty Pryor jnr.

"Reading through the collection of poetry is like riding through history on the back of an echidna. It has powerful words and these writers have reshaped their hearts and made them beat stronger," he said.

Some of the artists have had work published previously, however for many it is the first time.

'Crow Feathers' is dedicated to the memory of Colin Daisy, who died before getting to see his poem published.

The Koori Mail visited the small but busy office of Black Ink Press and found many other projects in the pipeline including an illustrated children's book, some Indigenous language dictionaries, a bush tucker publication and others.

"We hope to find storytellers, writers and artists and then publish their work and we want to support individuals and groups," Jeanie Adams said. "We are especially interested in picture story books."

Three thousand have been printed in the first run and the price is \$25 a book or \$15 each for five or more.

Orders can be placed with Black Ink Publishing at PO Box 217, Thuringowa 4817. Phone and fax enquiries are welcome on (07) 4773 5307 (fax) or (07) 4773 5077 (phone) or email [blackinkybi@ozemail.com.au](mailto:blackinkybi@ozemail.com.au).