

# FRESH OFF THE BOOKS

Sweatshop & NewSouth announce first-ever writing program for Pasifika authors



Sweatshop Literacy Movement and NewSouth Publishing are delighted to announce Fresh Off The Books: The Pasifika Australian Literary Initiative.

As Australia's first-ever literary program for Pasifika-Australian writers, 12 successful applicants will receive a year-long scholarship to develop their critical and creative writing portfolios over a period of 12 months. The scholarship will include ongoing masterclasses, one-on-one consultations, expert editorial support and a fee of \$1000.00 for each successful recipient.

The boundary-pushing new initiative will be led by acclaimed writer, editor and community arts worker, Winnie Dunn. In February 2024, Winnie became the first Tongan-Australian author to release a mainstream novel by and about the Pasifika community of Australia, titled [Dirt Poor Islanders](#). As one of Australia's most celebrated writers from the Pasifika diaspora, Winnie said she was delighted to be fostering the next generation of Pasifika storytellers and writers:

"I'm thrilled to be leading Fresh Off The Books! What a mana-filled opportunity to amplify the voices of emerging Pasifika writers across our nation so often overlooked and forgotten. Fresh Off The

Books celebrates the richness of Pasifika-Australian stories, and I'm honoured to help bring it all to life with NewSouth and Sweatshop's commitment to authentic and diverse storytelling."

The exciting new initiative will culminate into an anthology of Pasifika writing – marking the first collection by Australian writers of Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Māori, Hawaiian, Torres Strait Islander and many other South Pacific cultural backgrounds. The initiative seeks to introduce Australian readers to the beauty, complexities, realities and diversity of contemporary Pasifika-Australian life.

The anthology will be published by NewSouth Publishing in the second half of 2026. NewSouth editor, Harriet McInerney, has been spearheading the project since its inception. She said:

"All of us at NewSouth are so thrilled to be working with Winnie Dunn on this ground-breaking anthology of Pasifika writing."

Applications for Fresh Off The Books are now open until February 28th, 2025. All emerging writers from Pasifika backgrounds aged 18+ are warmly encouraged to apply. Please visit the Sweatshop website for further information:

[www.sweatshop.ws](http://www.sweatshop.ws)

Fresh Off The Books: The Pasifika Australian Literary Initiative is proudly supported by Diversity Arts Australia and funded by Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.



**Sweatshop Literacy Movement Inc.**  
Winnie Dunn | General Manager  
winnie@sweatshop.ws

**Powerhouse Youth Theatre**  
A: PO Box 250, Fairfield 1860  
W: sweatshop.ws | M: 0422560781



**sweatshop.**