



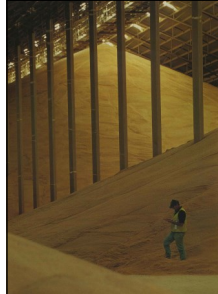
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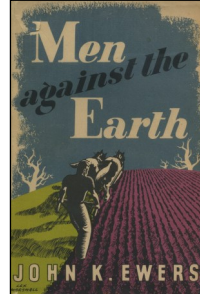
Community Talk



Ghooli



Avon wheat bin



J K Ewers,
Men against the Earth



Dorothy Hewett

A wheatbelt history through writers' eyes Tony Hughes-d'Aeth

The WA wheatbelt now dominates the southwest corner of the Australian continent. During the 20th century, an area of land roughly the size of England was cleared of its native vegetation for grain cultivation. Its creation, and the destruction that made it possible, was recorded in the creative literature of a number of its participants. Prominent wheatbelt writers include Albert Facey, J K Ewers, Dorothy Hewett, Jack Davis, Barbara York Main and John Kinsella. This talk considers the literary history of the wheatbelt in which writers are treated as witnesses to the transformation of land at the scale of landscape.

Tony Hughes-d'Aeth is Chair of Australian Literature at the UWA and this talk is based on his book *Like Nothing on this Earth: A Literary History of the Wheatbelt* (UWA Publishing, 2017).

The landscape is so immense, hot and huge like nothing on this earth, that I fear it might swallow me. The heat makes its own horizon, multi-layered and inconstant. Out of this mirage runs a highway ... The car burned along the lonely highway through miles of brown-green bushland and straw-coloured paddocks, the stubble of the wheat blotched with charcoal-green tree clumps and bounded only by the endless miles of fencing strung to the horizon.

Tom Flood, Oceana Fine (1989)

Wednesday 24 May 2023, 10 for 10.30am

Cost \$10 Bookings essential

Tel: 9386 3841 Email: admin@histwest.org.au

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I/we will be attending *A wheatbelt history through writers' eyes* talk on Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 10 for 10.30am.

Cost \$10

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