

## MEDIA RELEASE

# SALT RIVER ROAD

by **MOLLY SCHMIDT**

Introducing an exciting new voice in Australian fiction: Molly Schmidt, winner of the 2022 City of Fremantle Hungerford Award. *Salt River Road* is a compelling coming-of-age novel about grief and healing set in a small town in the 1970s.

### ABOUT THE BOOK

In the aftermath of their mother's death, the Tetley siblings' lives are falling apart. Left to fend for themselves as their family farm goes to ruins, Rose sets out to escape the grief and mess of home. When she meets Noongar Elders Patsy and Herbert, she finds herself drawn into a home where she has the chance to discover the strength of community, and to heal a wound her family has carried for a generation. *Salt River Road* is a poignant exploration of healing and resilience, small-town racism and the power of human connection.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Molly Schmidt is a writer and journalist from the coastal town of Albany, Western Australia. Molly is passionate about producing stories that are inclusive of all members of her community. Written as part of her PhD under Miles Franklin Award winner Kim Scott, and novelist Brett D'Arcy, Molly collaborated with Noongar Elders to produce a novel that actively pursues reconciliation. Molly works as a radio producer and journalist for the ABC, where her passion for storytelling is put to good use.



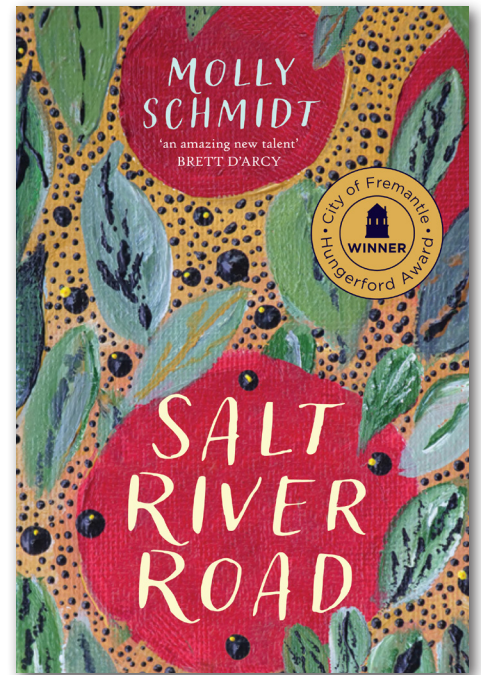
### NOTES

- The artwork featured on the front cover was painted by Noongar artist Glenda Williams, whom Molly met in Albany. Molly was immediately drawn to the vibrancy of Glenda's painting and when she saw that the painting was of quandongs, which grow on the real Salt River Road, Molly knew she had found the cover of her book.
- Molly will be touring major capital cities and will be available for events and media bookings.
- The City of Fremantle Hungerford Award has been previously won by Gail Jones, Natasha Lester, Holden Sheppard, Simone Lazaroo and Brenda Walker.
- To hear Molly and friends discuss the book's journey to publication click through to YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/OYIJcaj-sE>

### PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

'This story retains an innocence and a sense of decency even as it glides through pain, love and complex politics. It's refreshing, and open, and kind of tricky.' *Kim Scott*

'An amazing new talent.' *Brett D'Arcy*



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