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Sydney University Press supports Australian literature for reading and study

Sydney University Press, which has brought over 40 classic Australian novels back into print in recent years, has backed calls this week to reinstate Australian literature's central place in English courses.

SUP supports the communiqué from the Literature Board of the Australia Council, released yesterday, suggesting that Australian literature should form a core element in English courses in primary, secondary and tertiary education. SUP has brought over 40 classic Australian novels back into print since 2003.

"The Classic Australian Works series currently features authors such as Jessica Anderson, Gerald Murnane and Martin Boyd," said SUP Business Manager Susan Murray-Smith. "The SUP Classics include Barbara Baynton, Joseph Furphy, Henry Lawson, Catherine Martin and Henry Handel Richardson.

"Our print-on-demand service ensures that none of these works will ever be out-of-print. When we first started, we imagined that we would sell directly to readers themselves. But increasingly we are distributing the works through bookshops interested in having a broader range of Australian works for sale".

SUP is an initiative of the University of Sydney Library, which has created one of the largest electronic collections of Australian historical and literary documents*. "Although the electronic collections are incredibly useful for research and study, people keep asking for print versions, particularly for the novels," says Ross Coleman, Director of Sydney eScholarship and Sydney University Press.

"SUP has been working with academics, AustLit, the Australian Literature Gateway at the University of Queensland and the Copyright Agency Ltd and other bodies to identify important Australian literature and make it available in print," says Murray-Smith.

* Note to Editors: The database is known as the Sydney Electronic Text and Image Service (SETIS).

Sydney University Press

Classic Australian Works (22 titles)

SUP Classics (32 titles covering historical and literary works)

RRP: from \$9.95 to \$37.95 plus postage

<http://www.sup.usyd.edu.au/>

SETIS Australian Studies Resources

<http://setis.library.usyd.edu.au/>

AustLit: The Resource for Australian Literature

<http://www.austlit.edu.au/>

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