

# New WA novelist

## HEARTS OF STONE

By

**ROGER CROOK**



**Roger Crook** was born in Liverpool in 1938.

WWII saw his family move away from the bombing of one of the busiest seaports in the world to the relative safety of North Wales, where he subsequently spent a lot of his early life.

He enlisted in the British Army before he was eighteen. After the Army he returned to North Wales and then went to agricultural college.

He came to Western Australia in 1967 with his wife Lynne and infant daughter to work on a wheat and sheep farm in Coorow.

From Coorow to Mingenew to the West Kimberly to manage a cattle station and then to the Chapman Valley to manage a 9000-hectare wheat and sheep farm where he completed his career in practical farming.

The next twenty years were spent in Australian agribusiness. He led the team that revolutionised crop establishment with ICI Spray Seed ® in the early nineteen eighties.

After ICI he built a consultancy representing agribusiness in Australia and overseas.

In 1989, Roger and Lynne purchased 'Woodlands', a small farm on the southern slopes of the Porongurup Range.

Roger and Lynne have two daughters and three grandchildren.

A long period of illness recently caused them to sell their farm and they now live on a vineyard on the north side of the Porongurup.

**Hearts of Stone** is Roger's first novel and this publication is the first re-print with a new publisher.

**Hearts of Stone** is a love story that starts before WWII. It is also a story about terrorism and religious

fanaticism. Not Moslems in the twenty first century but the Christian Irish in the twentieth century. Whether Terrorist or Freedom Fighter, the 'cause' is as old as Ireland itself. Brendan McGonigal exiled from Ireland as a student for his political views becomes a wealthy cattle dealer in North Wales and falls in love with Phyllis a medical student and daughter of a Welsh hill farmer. Their love further binds the ancient culture of two great Celtic nations.

Thirty years on David McGonigal, the only son of Phyllis and Brendan, serves with the SAS in Northern Ireland and later with the Home Office Counter Terrorism Unit. He leaves the army and tries to forget his former life—then one placid Saturday night in Wales, hooligans threaten the landlord of his local pub. David goes to his aid and finds that there is another sinister and dangerous agenda. The pace is frantic to stop the killing, this time in the name of God, from starting all over again.

*Out of Ireland have we come,*

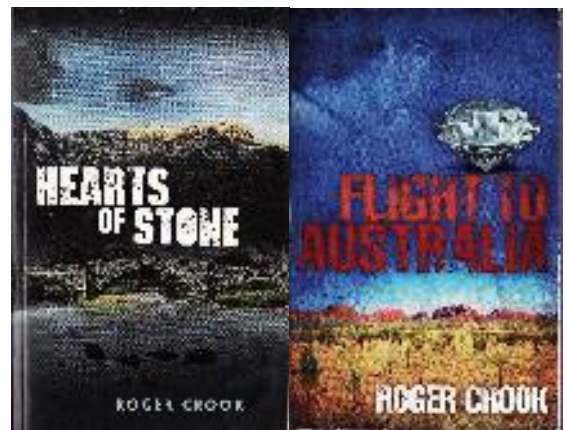
*Great hatred, little room.*

*Maimed us at the start.*

*I carry from my mother's womb*

*A fanatic heart.*

W.B. Yeats 1865-1939



Roger has already written the sequel to **Hearts of Stone**.

**Flight to Australia**

**Flight to Australia** brings David McGonigal and his wife Barbara to Western Australia to join his uncle Paul

McGonigal and away from the threats on his life from his old enemy, the IRA.

***Flight to Australia*** is the story of David and Barbara's first month in exile. On their first day there is a bomb threat. David fears the IRA have broken their deal—but it's Paul that's the target. He doesn't know who they are—or why they want him dead—but they keep on trying. Then David's old boss from Counter Terrorism in the UK turns up in Perth, now leading a shadowy team from the British Foreign Office. David realises that the only thing he can be sure of in Perth—is that the sun will shine tomorrow.

***Hearts of Stone*** is available from Ganieda Press  
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***Flight to Australia*** will be available soon

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