



Birth to a labour of love



poetry

FIVE poets are about to see their labour of love go from a casual conversation to being launched as part of this year's Perth Writers Festival.

Titled *Amber Contains the Sun*, the book features the collected works of local poets Flora Smith of Mt Lawley and Carol Millner of Coolbinia as well as Vivienne Glance (Shenton Park), Christopher Konrad (Glen Forrest) and Sally Clarke (Lesmurdie).

They all met through a Poetry Master Class series for emerging poets run by the Fellowship of Australian Writers in 2007, whose aim was to develop work to

the high standard needed for publication.

Millner said the group then decided amongst themselves to make it all happen.

From there they gathered a draft manuscript, applied for funding from the Department of Culture and the Arts, found an editor and were on their way.

The collected poems show a fascination with the details of everyday life and take in a range of topics with Smith's *The Lost Language of Rain* and Konrad's *Middleton Beach* set specifically in WA while Millner's *Talking to a Jade Heirloom* and Clarke's

Moving the Rugs contrast living in Australia with life elsewhere.

Glance, who was the 2007 winner of the WA final of the National Poetry Slam, said though the group had had individual poems published it was the first time they had a collection compiled in book form.

"We've all been closely involved in everything; fund raising, editing, cover design, printing," she said.

Amber Contains the Sun will be launched on Sunday March 1 at the UWA Club Theatre from 6.30pm and will be available from Planet Books in Mt Lawley.



Carol Millner with Sivan, and Flora Smith.

www.communitypix.com.au d302036