

Subramani Publishes New Book

Renowned Fijian writer and Professor of Literature at The University of Fiji, Subramani, has published a new book titled *Wild Flowers*. It is a book of fiction with an Introduction by John O'Carroll, an Australian critic, who calls it "one of the most important collection of stories to emerge from Fiji." This is confirmed by Dr. Sudesh Mishra's remark that "it is the most significant work of fiction I have ever read."

The book *Wild Flowers* comprises of short stories and a novella and an autobiographical account together encompassing a range of subjects such as alienation, reality and illusion, Fiji's pluralistic life, ethnic tension, search for self-definition, and human emancipation.

Speaking about the book, Subramani stated that Fiji's varied life and complexity of issues in the country inspired him to keep writing his fiction. He has continued to explore what it means to live consciously in Fiji. Writers, he said, have the role of carrying on dialogue with their readers in order to come to terms with many social and philosophical issues. He has employed both the English language and also Fiji Hindi to broaden his investigation of life in the country. His large epic novel written in Fiji Hindi called *Fiji Maa; Mother of a Thousand* will be published in October 2018. A book on Subramani's writing has been published in India entitled *Subramani: A Writer at Work in Fiji*.

Sia Figiel, a renowned Samoan novelist, has described the stories in *Wild Flowers* as stunning: "*Wild Flowers* remains a powerful and moving testament to Subramani's enormous talent, and scope as one of the Pacific's foremost storytellers. Written in eloquent language that is sometimes brutal, sometimes tender, Subramani deftly weaves the racial and power struggles of Fijian society and presents us with a haunting salusalu of melancholy, despair, anguish, madness, terror, loss interlaced with moments of satire and humor that encapsulates the history and experiences of men and women and children caught up in the violent shadow of colonialism."

The book will be launched at the University of Fiji on 30th June 2018.