

Local author's first book to hit the shelves

By SHANNON NEWLEY

MANY hours spent tapping away at her keyboard finally paid for local author Karen Thompson when she received a hard copy of her new book, *8 States of Catastrophe*.

The novel was officially launched by distributor Pan Macmillan on March 1.

Ms Thompson studied journalism and English literature and had a range of short stories and poems published over the last few years, but she said receiving her first published novel was the pinnacle of her career.

The book covers the journey of a former journalist and his dog setting off on a journey from Canberra to Mt Isa and beyond.

It delves in to subjects like murder, art through the universal theme of love, coincidence, mystery, football and death.

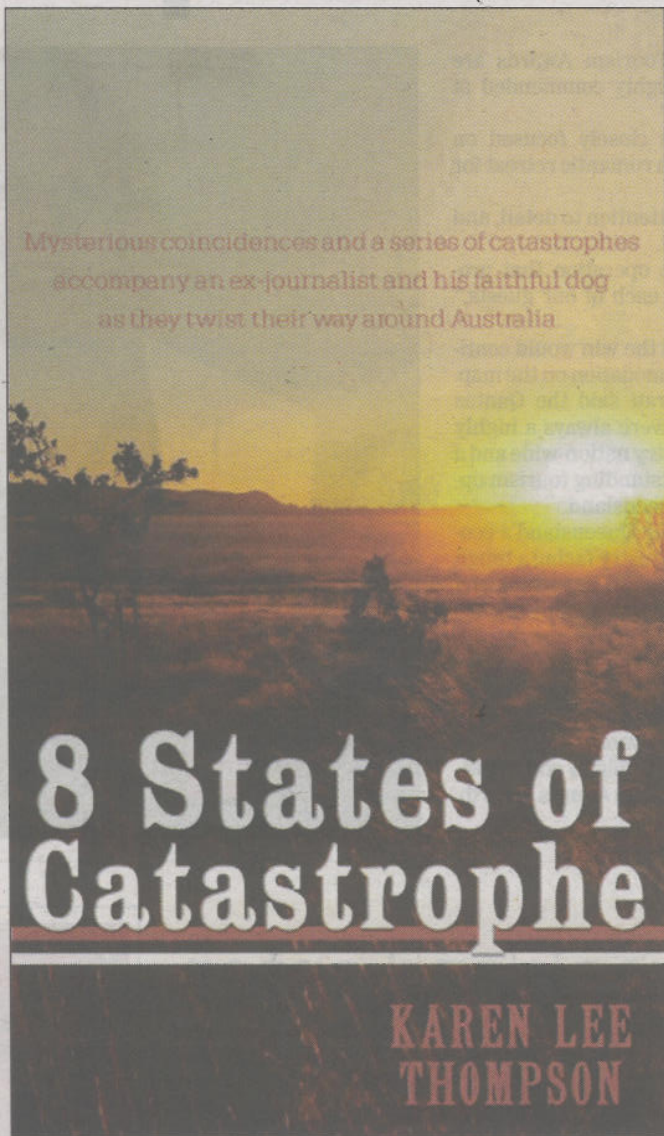
Originally from Tasmania, Ms Thompson moved to the Granite Belt from the Gold Coast more than eight years ago.

She said the area was the perfect backdrop for writers to nurture their careers, although Stanthorpe does not make an appearance in the story.

"I like to keep my fiction a safe distance from my reality," she said.

"And given that catastrophe strikes in one way or another in most places in the book, I think the majority of locals would be pleased that Stanthorpe doesn't feature."

The book will be available locally through Vincenzo's and Stanthorpe Newsagency from this Saturday, March 19.



ABOVE: Karen Thompson's new book, *8 States of Catastrophe*, will be available this Saturday.