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Title:

Statement: Francis Webb memorial programme

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date.....March 11, 1976.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre
Victoria Square, Adelaide
South Australia 5001
228 4811

FRANCIS WEBB MEMORIAL PROGRAMME

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, today read a selection of poems by the Australian poet, Francis Webb.

Mr. Dunstan was taking part in the Francis Webb Memorial Programme which is part of Writers' Week of the Festival of Arts.

Francis Webb, who died in November 1973, was one of the most significant poets of this century.

He was born in Adelaide February 8, 1925, although the family moved to Sydney when he was still young after the death of his mother. He attended primary and secondary schools in Sydney and matriculated to Sydney University in the leaving certificate examination of 1942.

Francis Webb's first published poem appeared in the Bulletin in 1942 while he was still at secondary school.

He did not go straight to university but enrolled in the R.A.A.F. After the war he enrolled in the Arts Faculty of Sydney University but did not complete his course.

He went to Canada in 1947, to England in 1949 and returned to Australia in 1950. While in Australia he held a variety of jobs and returned to England in 1953, coming back to Australia in 1959. From 1960-73 he lived in New South Wales and Victoria.

Francis Webb's poetry is striking, but it is also structurally and intellectually complex.