



A R T S

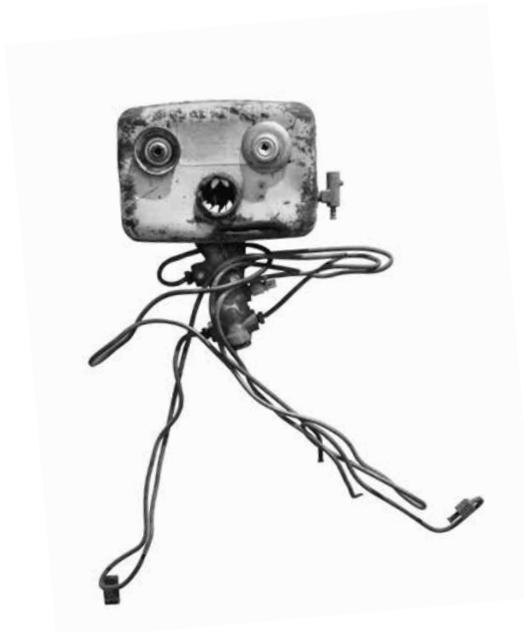
EDITORIAL

Even after many years involvement in the arts in Australia, I am continually amazed and excited by the new ideas and new enthusiasms which constantly find their way to us. People ask if we struggle to find ideas for articles for the publication. There's no chance of that. There will always be poets writing and sculptors contorting any objects they can lay their hands on into fantastical, humorous and clever shapes (see below) and in this issue [Philip Hammial](#) tells how he does both.

Then there's the treasure trove of the past. In this issue we have a fascinating article researched and contributed by a group of people who work in the archives and conservation departments of NSW State Records about the magnificent gift of the [Carrington Volumes](#) they received last year from Buckinghamshire in the United Kingdom. These are stunning illuminated addresses collected together in eleven volumes, bound for their recipient, Lord Carrington, just before he returned to the UK after his five years as governor in New South Wales in the 1880s.

Another reference to the more recent past but nevertheless a distinctive period of a past fashion, is our story [Please Take a Seat](#) about Meredith Hinchliffe's exhibition of Modernist furniture which was held at the Penrith Regional Gallery and the Lewers Bequest last year. Many will have been surprised at how enjoyable it was to re-visit the simple elegance of those familiar designs. These under-estimated functional pieces were often discarded when a new fashion came along, but today their clean lines are enjoying new interest and admiration.

Artist jeweller from Western Australia, [Dorothy Erickson](#), has also been tirelessly recording the past, particularly in her home state, and has recently published a major reference book honouring designers and makers in Western Australia from 1829 to 1969 as well as looking at the achievements of her own family, particularly those of her mother, naturalist and botanical artist Rica Erickson. We tell Dorothy's own story in this issue.



Philip Hammial, Petrolhead

Which brings me to [Steampunk](#), another feature story in this new issue. Is Steampunk new or old? Definitely new AND old. Our writer Julian Leatherdale brings our readers another of his absorbing interviews, this time of Alexandra Chambers, a talented young designer and founder of Clockwork Butterfly.

Julian's own schedule has been frenetic, promoting his new novel, *Palace of Tears*, a magnum opus set in the opulent and magical years of the Hydro Majestic Hotel. The Hydro was the place where the trendiest of the day, our mothers, grandmothers (perhaps our great-grandmothers) went on holidays and honeymoons in the days before air travel took everyone overseas to even more exotic locations.

Julian's interview with one of the best and most famous Steampunk artists and designers offers a sumptuous feast for all of us while Warren Hinder's contemplative close focus photographs [Meditations](#) remind us of how precious the natural world is in giving harmony to our lives. All in all, an uplifting and exciting issue which we hope you enjoy.

Carolynne Skinner