



## ROMY ROEDER

### Why I Love Snowmen

*'I am often asked why I create and collect snowmen, particularly as it seems quite incongruous when we celebrate Christmas in the height of the Australian summer. I certainly don't like the heat and even after living here for 60 years, I have never adapted to it—which may well explain my deep down need for snowmen in my life.'*



Romy Roeder is a noted collector and maker. Together with her husband Hans Roeder they are wellknown to all serious collectors of dolls, teddy bears and toys. For twenty years the Roeders ran their own doll and toy museum and shop. Add this to the several decades during which they may justifiably lay claim to being pioneers and respected authorities in the Australian collecting community.

Today their main interest revolves around their private collection—housed in their Blue Mountains home, the overwhelming impression of which is of a large toyshop crammed floor to ceiling with wonders. Although retired,



Romy's interests and her clever craftsmanship mean that she is constantly alert to opportunities to participate in new ways with the wider arts community. She has been challenging all comers for several years in regional Waste to Art competitions, winning prizes for her clever use of old magazines, ancient 78s and anything else that comes to hand with her zany recycled artworks. She has a bottomless treasure trove to draw on, boundless energy and an imagination that is constantly firing on all cylinders.

Romy Roeder has always shared her interests and her knowledge in print, as author of many books on doll, golliwog and teddy bear collecting. When Romy progressed from teddy bear collecting and wellknown expert on the subject to actually making her own bears, her new bears became award-winning and collectable in their own right. Every new idea seems to spark another project which then turns into a collection and another talent is revealed.

The story of the snowmen is just one of Romy's interests which has retained its fascination over many years and is renewed every Christmas.



Above: Romy Roeder's stickman snowman  
Right: A carrot-nosed snowman in his snow hut decorated with old pictures of soldiers and santas.