



A R T S

EDITORIAL

One of the most moving stories I have read in a long time is the one related by Pham Chi, a Vietnamese Australian who now owns [Nerine Martini's](#) maquette of *Life Boat / Thuyen Cuu Roi*, and reproduced in this issue. Our community is fortunate to have artists like Nerine and [Gabriella Hegyes](#) who are able to express in material form some idea of the experiences of the people who make up our country. I enjoyed the quote Nerine uses of William Faulkner: '*The past is not dead. It is not even past.*' How true this is. Wherever we look to the past, whether to the settlers and early farmers or the migrants and refugees who came from all over the world to work in our mines and build our industries, or further and further back, to the indigenous peoples, one quickly realises that all of these presences continue and are part of who we are today. Illustrated on this page is part of Nerine's recent commission by Wollongong Council, one of the signposts called *Dwellings* representing the early housing occupied by migrants—caravans, sheds and Nissen huts.

A collection like [A Fine Possession](#) currently at the Powerhouse Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences in Sydney offers another fascinating journey into history, this time contemporary jewellery's recent history. [Dorothy Erickson](#) laments that there is no catalogue to accompany this splendid show and so it is fortunate that we have her expert guidance, as an arts writer and respected jeweller herself—indeed someone whose work is represented in the exhibition. In our story about Dorothy's mother also in this issue, renowned West Australian botanist and artist [Rica Erickson](#), we again look back through the generations and see how our forebears continue to be part of who we are today.

This issue is one which celebrates the pleasures and achievements, acknowledging the struggles of times past, reflecting on how important individual contributions have been to the whole. [The Wayzgoose Press](#) is an extraordinary Australian small press located in the Blue Mountains which produced internationally celebrated publications and whose editions were collected by such as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Museum of the Book in Holland, the Library of Congress and, of course, all the major Australian collections. Des Cowley from the National Library of Victoria has written an article for us about the treasure trove they now hold at the library with the gifting by the Wayzgoose Press of their publishing lifetime's records.



Nerine Martini, Dwellings, 2014

Photographer [Peter Elfes](#) spent five years visiting and re-visiting Lake Eyre, observing with his artist photographer's eye the breathtakingly beautiful changes which occurred during the blink of an eye in the millennia of this magical place's existence. To respect the past, Peter has adopted the aboriginal people's name for the lake, Kati Thanda—far superior most will agree, to the name of an English gentleman who never even saw this place.

We hope you enjoy this issue and ask all of our readers to share these stories and provide links to the articles they enjoy.

Carolynne Skinner
Editor