



OUR THIRTEENTH ISSUE is in large part dedicated to telling people's stories. So many creatives have multi-faceted lives, with layer upon layer interwoven and overlapping and so full of colour and drama that they fairly explode across the pages.

Christine Townend is wellknown for initiating the setting up of Animal Liberation in Australia and **Elizabeth Walton** interviewed Christine about her recent autobiography, her art, and her inspirational work which in recent years has focused on the animal shelters she has set up in India. Let me add that Elizabeth herself is a journalist, photographer, musician, teacher, grower and producer/maker at Figtree Food Company.

Everyone who knew **Jose de Koster** loved him (well I did and I can't imagine anyone else not feeling the same). Jose died recently and Liz his wife has spent months transcribing his notes and diaries and ruminations for his biography. Jose was an all-rounder; an artist, actor, writer and story-teller and we are pleased to be able to share Jose's memories of his internment as a youth in a Japanese POW camp in Indonesia in this issue — a taste of his life story which will be published shortly.

Marilla North fell in love with the subject of her Master's thesis and has produced the magnum opus called *Yarn Spinners* which tells **Dymphna Cusack's** story. Dymphna Cusack wrote, with Florence James, the international bestseller *Come in Spinner* and in this issue readers learn more of how that controversial novel came to be published.

The Wayzgoose Press is an Australian treasure largely unknown and unacknowledged in their own land. Lawrence Finn met Jadwiga Jarvis and Mike Hudson and laments their obscurity, but acknowledges that that may well be the way they like it. We illustrate his article, 'Grit in the Ink', with a number of the Wayzgoose Press's striking prints and posters.

When **Helene and Ted Markstein** decided to retire, Helene looked at a map of Europe and (almost) stuck a pin at random to decide where they should go to live and immerse themselves in a new life and culture. They have lived in Gozo, Malta, for several years now,

writing poetry, plays, photographing the country, travelling and now they have produced two limited edition books. We carry an excerpt from *Gozo* in this issue.

Community arts festivals are the life-blood of artists and communities and this year Mt. Tomah's cool climate botanic gardens pulled out all stops to celebrate thirty years of its art program in **The Garden of Earthly Delights**. Artist Jenny Kee's flamboyant waratahs (see our cover), Michael White's luminous flowers, artists, sculptors, musicians and jewellers — all participated. The works of the four featured jewellers enticed visitors to get up close and personal and we have included their work in this issue.

We hope you find time in the busy Christmas season to sit down, relax and enjoy this splendidly artful repast.

Carolynne Skinner

Jeff Rigby: Still Life Props, National Art School, 28x 37 cms charcoal

