

## **From the editors of this issue**

This year marks the first anniversary of the open access version of the *Australian Studies Journal – Zeitschrift für Australienstudien*. The online submission form and the availability of articles and reviews for free have made an impact on the reach and diversity of our readers. We could sense increasing interest in, and awareness of, this new format at institutions, such as the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, and at conferences across Europe and Australia.

This year's issue presents a wealth of interdisciplinary research in the areas of History, Indigenous Studies and Literature. Drawing on the theoretical implications of *ego histoire*, Martina Horáková's essay analyses the ways notions of settler belonging have been expressed in the historical writings by Peter Read and Mark McKenna. Engaging in a close post-colonial reading, the study shows the complexity of power relations in the narrative strategies of shifting settler identities. Oliver Haag's article traces the causes for the increase in published Indigenous Australian autobiographies. Drawing on interviews and bibliographies, his research contributes new impetus to the study of the emerging interest in Indigenous biographical writing. His contribution finally contrasts this burgeoning interest in Australia with a low level interest in Indigenous autobiographies on the German-speaking market. Fiona Duthie's analysis deals with the colourful but also ambivalent aspects of life, love and art in Alex Miller's novels. Her vivid plea for an intellectual approach to Alex Miller's work and the subjects of love and art leaves the reader with the enlightened insight that "art" in all its expressions and facets is, indeed, the perfect partner of "love". Based on the author's own experiences in the field, GAST award winner Chrischona Schmidt investigates in her research report the role, function and scope of art centres in Indigenous communities and scrutinises particularly the implications of the differences between the absence and existence of art centres and art agencies in Indigenous communities. Finally, the new issue ends with a prologue: Henriette von Holleuffer explores the fundamental role of water as life-giving resource as well as creative power in Australia's prehistory. "On the edge of the human

*Dasein* in Australia" exemplifies the interdisciplinary and interrelated search for water and the beginning of history in Australia. As time is relative, it also is the hunt for water and its ever-present spirits in the land of the Aborigines.

As editors of the journal, we continue to foster the practice of Australian Studies as a multidisciplinary endeavour. The *Zeitschrift für Australienstudien / Australian Studies Journal* is a crucial forum for exchanging innovative scholarship. We strongly encourage future submissions in both German and English language. Meanwhile, our Association continues to issue a bi-annual electronic Newsletter which presents news, reports and debates on Australia's current affairs. Australianists can visit the *e-Newsletter* on **[www.australienstudien.org](http://www.australienstudien.org)**.

The production of this issue would not have been possible without the efforts of our authors, reviewers and anonymous referees. We wish to thank Dennis Haskell for his empathic obituary of Veronica Brady that captures the author's passionate literary career so well. In particular, our gratitude goes to Victoria Herche, Barbara Schmidt-Haberkamp, Elisabeth Bähr, Lindsay Frost and Guido Isekenmeier who helped in the final steps towards completion of the online and print versions. We really appreciate that. Thank you.

*Henriette von Holleuffer & Oliver Haag (December 2015)*