This book is a distillation of doctoral research and tells the stories of many talented gold and silversmiths who lived in Western Australia. It chronicles the journey and silver plates, the cupids, and others of the incisiveness, social and economic milieu in which the books were created. Influences are broad, and innovative highlighted. Many in local content – materials, categories to recognize – such as one continuing trend. Artists, craftsmanship, and design have remained persistently loyal to local design while working or commissioning in national and international fashions.

The best works of each era can take, or have taken, their place in the international arena being not only of its place but also of its time.

Gold & Silversmithing in Western Australia: A History

Dorothy Erickson

Dorothy Erickson is a Western Australian born and trained artist-jeweller, the daughter of Dr Rica Erickson, author, historian and wildflower painter. On the paternal side her grandfather Johann Erickson had a goldmine at Broad Arrow sparking an enduring interest in the precious metal. Dorothy was taught on the family farm at Bolgart before she went to board at Methodist Ladies College. After training as a teacher she taught in Australia and England. On her return she studied painting and then enrolled at the newly opened Western Australian Institute of Technology and gained an Associateship in Art majoring in Jewellery & Silversmithing and Art & Design History. She followed this with a Bachelor of Arts degree and returned to WAIT for a BA in 1976–1980. She had her first solo exhibition in 1977 and has had more than ten solo exhibitions since then. Her work is in the various State Art Galleries, the National Collection, The Victoria & Albert Museum, London, the Schmuckmuseum in Pforzheim, Germany, and the National Fine Arts Collection in Malta.

Dr Erickson has travelled widely bringing an international perspective to her many years of research. She has written on art, craft, design and theatre since 1977. Her most recent book is A Joy Forever: the story of Kings Park.