

July highlights

The July issue of *ABR* features journalist Nicole Hasham's searing Calibre essay on the Pilbara's pockmarked mining landscape. Historian Joan Beaumont travels to Ambon, asking whether the ever-growing number of Australian war pilgrims reflects a turn towards 'postmemory'. Timothy J. Lynch considers America's unending conflict with itself, Ben Wellings writes about another fractured union in the United Kingdom, and Jessica Lake examines the use of defamation in sexual assault cases. There is new poetry from John Kinsella, Julie Manning, and Andrew Sant, and we review Seamus Heaney's letters, new poetry from Judith Bishop, fiction by Colm Tóibín, Francesca de Tores, Dylín Hardcastle, Percival Everett, theatre, music, television and more.



How to obliterate a mountain Walkley Award-winning journalist Nicole Hasham travels to the site of Wakathuni, the Pilbara mountain also known as Tom Price that was blown up in 1974 to mine iron ore. 'Before visiting the Pilbara, I found myself binge-watching videos of mountains being exploded ... for a split second, an entire mountain ridge would seem to rise then hang suspended in the air: a final act of profundity before thudding down to earth.'

Division as America's default setting In his review of Nick Byrant's *The Forever War: America's unending conflict*, professor of American politics Timothy J. Lynch examines the proposition that 'Trump is less a waypoint than a destination' for a nation defined, maybe even driven, by conflict.

The shoals of nationalist fragmentation Ben Wellings examines Michael Kenny's *Fractured Union: Politics, sovereignty and the fight to the save the United Kingdom* and Kenny's suggestions for 'piloting the ship of state' away from fragmentation. The United Kingdom will endure, Wellings argues, until 'élites among the national majority cease investing their political aspirations in the extant state'.

'I never knew my uncle' Historian Joan Beaumont joins a pilgrimage of descendants of veterans on their annual Anzac Day trip to Ambon, one of the many annual journeys made by Australians to war cemeteries abroad. Beaumont considers the place of postmemory in the 'generation after', asking 'Why do they weep over the grave of someone whom they never met?'

The voices of my best secret life Stephen Regan reviews *The Letters of Seamus Heaney*, edited by Christopher Reid, identifying in them the Nobel Prize-winning poet's need for connection and a secret life, away from his unremitting schedule of public appearances and 'a life of hurry and podiums and senatorial poms'.

Interview requests and further information

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