AUSTRALIAN TOYS

by Luke Jones

Australian Toys is an illustrated history of Australian manufactured toys from 1900-1965, drawing on the author's authoritative collection. The book documents the production of each toy with beautiful colour photographs accompanied by relevant text about the toy and manufacturer.
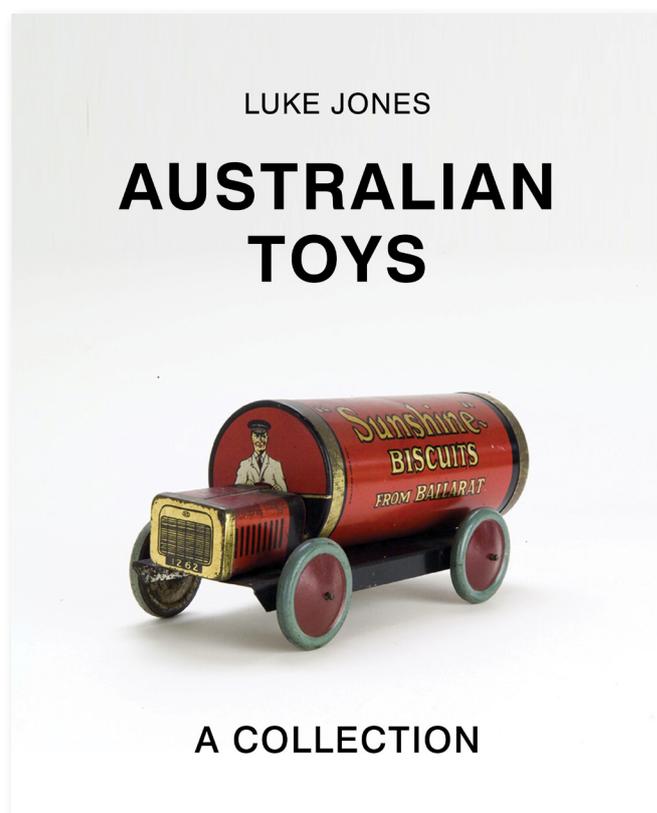
Luke Jones' carefully structured collection has been assembled with passion and commitment over a period of more than thirty years and is unrivalled for its breadth and quality. It provides an ideal platform to illustrate a history of twentieth century Australian manufactured toys, a history which has yet to be substantially documented in any form.

This book will make an important contribution to the recorded history of Australian society, childhood, family and manufacturing.

In the course of play, children so often desire to identify with the adult world. Toymakers have responded to this with child-sized versions of aspects of everyday life, with the best toys quite often introducing an element of fantasy and imagination. It is these elements that provide a toy with its charm and enduring appeal.

... I considered that with a consequential collection of Australian manufactured toys, a real contribution to the story of antique toys and the associated social history could be made. It also became apparent to me that the Australian-made toys I previously thought of as crude or unrefined actually have a distinct character and beauty, and when assembled as a broader group have a strong visual appeal.

— from Introduction

LUKE JONES

AUSTRALIAN TOYS

A COLLECTION

The Author

Luke Jones is an architect by profession and an experienced elite level equestrian competitor in the sport of Eventing; however a life's passion for collecting antique toys preceded both of these pursuits. The first item in his collection was purchased in 1983 when Luke was aged nine. His long term commitment to the subject has led to the assembly of a comprehensive and considered collection of Australian manufactured vintage toys that is without peer.