

Bettina Cummins

TRAVELLING GRANNY

Having exchanged the tyranny of apron and broom
for that of long distance travel,
she boards the bus in Brisbane
en route for Perth.

She has daughters everywhere,
a purse crammed with fuzzy photographs
of grandchildren yet to be assessed.

Name any country town, she's been there —
well, passed through at 2 a.m.

Not sleeping well at night
dozes the day away,
stopping over at Adelaide this time
for a decent meal and a bed;
used to cross the Nullarbor non-stop
before her legs played up.

Her sons think her mad
buy her plane tickets
but she tells them
you don't see the country that way.