

NOT OUR JOB

TONY BIRCH

we fear them gone and
pray Amen in respect of
the missing in empty waters

we cannot search
we cannot save
the lost of no-man's sea

they lay their bodies
beyond the border of
'definitions of responsibility'

ANOTHER 113

TONY BIRCH

there are 113
800 kms off the coast
to the west of us

113 to the north
113 dropping from the sky
and 113 tunneling in

21 children, 54 women
and 38 emaciated men
are preparing to attack us

Author Note

Tony Birch is a leading Australian scholar and literary writer. His poems, "Another 113" and "Not our Job" appear on the Asia Pacific Writers' Network website, under the title *The News Today*: <http://www.apwn.net>. The poem "Another 113" has also appeared under the title "White Nation" in the September 2005 issue of *The Quarterly*, which is published electronically by Sydney Pen Centre: <http://www.pen.org.au/docs/Quarterly0905.pdf>