



Far from there...

many parts make a whole life here

Dedicated to Rob and Ross, parts of my family on Denny Island on the central coast.

By boat, by plane, by ferry or barge we, 'the Others' each have landed here....

Drawn by hope, the promise of more, the need for sanctuary, following love or a job, fleeing the busy, the hectic, the noise of our lives, for whatever the reason, we are here.

One or two at a time we arrive with baggage in tow. Some travel light seemingly temporary, some drag an entire life along with them. One thing in common, that somewhere family and the known have been left behind to be here.

This tribe of 'Others' ebbs and wanes with the seasons like the tide that rules our world. Island living is for the brave. You must step outside yourself. No one can survive entirely alone here.

These individuals, the parts that make the community a whole are unique, caring, off the wall, loving beings who have the capacity to bring out the best in each one here.

Like every family, we also have capacity to bring out the worst in each other but it is that ability to forgive and accept which keeps us honest, grounded, growing and thriving here.

Over the years so many have come and gone, many have stayed or returned to no longer be an 'Other' but rather a 'Welcomer'. These amazing souls have built and experienced a life here.

They open their arms and hearts to the new inhabitants, gracious and kind, teaching the way. No one goes it alone unless they want to, everyone is free to be just who they are here.

Losing anyone is unthinkable. When a Welcomer is lost it seems as though the island sits lower for a time the grief is so heavy. The loss of an Other also leaves a wake. We draw closer to each other, ride out the current and find comfort that we are not alone here.

The recent losses leave me sad, but grateful to have known these parts that have made my life whole here.

Saudades, my friends

Marnée Bellavance