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Kunapipi 10 (1&2) 1988, Contents, Editorial

Abstract

Contents, Editorial

ABORIGINAL CULTURE TODAY



Edited by
ANNA RUTHERFORD

ABORIGINAL CULTURE
TODAY

ABORIGINAL CULTURE TODAY

EDITED by
ANNA RUTHERFORD

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Many people helped me to complete this special issue and I am grateful to all of them. But there are two people I would like to thank in particular, Carolyn Osterhaus and Mona Andersen, both of whom helped to make what at times looked like an impossible task, possible.

Cover 'Taken Away' Sally Morgan

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For
Oodgeroo of the Tribe Noonuccal
A Tribute

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EDITORIAL

This volume is a tribute to the Aboriginal people who, in spite of the terrible atrocities committed against them and their land over the past two hundred years of white settlement, have still managed to survive. The volume makes no attempt to hide the wrongs that were and still are being perpetuated by white society. But the overall tone of the essays by the Aboriginal contributors is, I believe, a positive one. The emphasis is not just on survival but on a determination to 'walk tall', to assert pride in their Aboriginality, to take control of their own culture through the establishment of Black presses, Black record labels, media; to present their own images in film, literature and the visual arts. All stress the need to introduce Aboriginal studies into Australian schools so that both black and white Australians may become aware of Aboriginal culture and history.

I regret very much the absence, through no fault of mine, of an article on the work of Jack Davis. However, I hope to have an article on Jack Davis in a forthcoming issue of *Kunapipi*. I would also have liked to include some poems by Joy Williams in this issue. For ideological reasons which I respect, she declined permission. However, I am pleased to say that she has agreed for them to be published in the next issue of *Kunapipi*.

In his article in this volume Mudooroo Narogin (Colin Johnson) writes: 'The celebration is not for the birth of white Australia, but for the survival of the Aborigines over the last two hundred years; of their coming together in Sydney; of the bringing down of the ancient ceremonies from the North, and of the laying to rest of the corpse of the past. It is a celebration of hope for the future'.

My hope is that this volume will contribute in some small way to this celebration.

Anna Rutherford