Preface

As the front cover indicates, this edition of Aboriginal History is dedicated to Kwementyaye Perkins, about whom more is said in the Introduction. On behalf of the editorial board I thank Eileen Perkins and her family for permission to accord Kwementyaye this mark of respect, and also to use his portrait on our cover. The photograph is from Peter Read’s collection, and so I record our appreciation for his making it available.

The list of other people to thank is similar to that in the three preceding volumes of the journal. As reviews editor, Luise Hercus has again collected a wide-ranging set of book reviews. Dick Barwick has again done us proud with the front cover. Tikka Wilson, our designer, has once more done her usual magnificent job with her complex role in the production process. Bernadette Hince has again relieved me of an onerous burden by working swiftly and surely through the unenviable task of copy-editing. Peter Read, the chair, and all other members of our editorial board, have the production team’s gratitude for their continuing support and advice. Finally, all the authors of articles, obituaries, notes and book reviews, and also the panel of article referees, deserve much credit for making this volume a worthy tribute to Kwementyaye Perkins.

It is worth noting that the people connected with the journal are not paid for their contributions. All are volunteers and have given their thousands of hours of personal time and effort because of their commitment to the journal and to the cause of serious ongoing research and publication in the ever-broadening field of Aboriginal history. It is little short of a miracle that a high quality journal like this is regularly produced under such circumstances. That it does happen is testimony to its importance to all those involved.

Kwementyaye Perkins, who was the original inspiration for Aboriginal History, would have been delighted that so many would voluntarily give so much of their time to a cause that he held dear. He would also have been pleased to know that this volume not only commemorates his eventful life and work but is exactly the sort of publication he had in mind when he suggested that Australian historians should ‘do something about Aboriginal history’.

Ian Howie-Willis
Managing Editor